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JET LAG

Three tired Russian immigrants try to sleep after their arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. They were among the more than 35,000 who landed in Israel in December, bringing the total of Soviet aliya for 1990 to more than 180,000. See story on page 6. [IPPA photo]

Arens berates Canada for its lack of support

JERUSALEM —

"Nowhere to go but up" is how Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens described Canada-Israel relations in a sharply critical speech here last week to Canadian Jewish leaders.

In an unusually harsh address, Arens told about 150 delegates attending the first-ever meeting in Israel of Canadian Jewish Congress's national executive that "there is considerable room for improvement (in relations) between our two countries. There is nowhere to go but up in that relationship.

"We don't always feel we have strong support from Canada. When the United Nations Security Council condemned Israel for the Temple Mount incident (last October), Canada was part of that vote.

"I look through a list of UN Security Council members to see which of these countries would deal with (such a situation) better than Israel. Who are they? Romania, Cuba, Zaire, Malaysia, Yemen, China, the Soviet Union.

"I ask these countries which are critical of us how they would deal with certain abuses. If the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has advice to give the Israel Defence Forces, I would be happy to see it," Arens said.

The minister said he met recently with Canada's new ambassador to Israel, Michael Bell, at which time he said there is room for improvement in relations between the two nations.

Arens said "rich countries" such as Canada should provide more financial assistance to Israel, especially since the great influx of Soviet Jews.

"The Canadian Parliament must know about our great need for assistance. Canada is one of the richest nations, yet we have not seen any assistance."

Arens said while Europe and Japan pour billions of dollars into Mideast nations to help offset the Persian Gulf crisis, "not a penny" has gone to Israel.

Moshe Arens

"While this money is going to countries which are deserving of assistance, Israel, which is facing its greatest economic challenge, is not getting this support. I wonder if anybody in the Canadian Parliament gets up and talks about this."

Following the address, CJC president Les Scheininger said he thought Arens "was preaching to the converted. I don't believe that the relationship (between Canada and Israel) is rock bottom. I believe Mr. Arens was expressing a sense of frustration with respect to positions taken by Canada."

Mike Cohen, CJC's communications director, told The CJN that "no one was shocked" by Arens' talk, "but what he said touched some nerves."

George Rioux, a Canadian Embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv, said "there is always room for improvement in every relationship."

Rioux said both Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy had nothing but kind words for Canada in their meetings with the national executive.

In Ottawa, Minister of State Gerry Weiner said in a statement that he was "surprised and not a little disappointed" by Arens' remarks.

"What is particularly astonishing about Mr. Arens' comments is that they come soon after Prime Minister Shamir characterized Canada's relationship with Israel as excellent," Weiner said.

Also expressing surprise at "the tone and substance" of Arens' remarks was Rodney Moore of the External Affairs department.

"We have to conclude that Mr. Arens was not necessarily speaking on behalf of the Israeli government and may be out of touch with our bilateral relatons," Moore told the Toronto Star.

David Waltzer, media spokesman for Israel's embassy in Ottawa, said his country still views Canada "as a good friend."

At least one executive of CJC, national secretary Marjorie Blankstein of Winnipeg, said she agrees with Arens.

"I think he's right. We would like to see Canada be more forthcoming in support of Israel," Blankstein said.

Bronfman firm hikes stakes in Israel with Osem purchase

TORONTO —

Charles Bronfman's Israel-based investment company is reportedly purchasing a controlling interest in one of that nation's largest food manufacturers.

Reports indicate that Claridge Israel will purchase 33 per cent of Osem's shares from two of the company's founding families — Katzman and Harpeck — for $26.75 million (U.S.). The deal is expected to close this week.

The next largest investor is the Proper family. It holds 17.4 per cent of the shares and manages the company, which is not publicly traded. The pact is said to include a clause whereby three Bronfman representatives join Osem's board of directors.

The Jerusalem Post Foreign Service says the families signed an agreement about six weeks ago to sell their stakes in Osem.

The agreement gave Claridge, whose identity was not revealed until last week's board of directors' meeting, an option to acquire the shares within 45 days unless Osem's current shareholders exercised their right of first refusal. An Israeli law firm mediated between the two parties.

The deal is Claridge Israel's first venture into the food sector since selling its 38-per-cent stake in Supersol, one of Israel's leading supermarket chains, in 1989.

The acquisition took some analysts by surprise, as Claridge has concentrated on high-technology, export-oriented companies. These investments include: Optrotech, a manufacturer of automated inspection and design stems; ECI Telecom, a telecommunications company; Luz Industries, a solar energy company, and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries.

Osem has annual sales of about $200 million (U.S.), of which only a small portion is derived from exports. The food company manufacturers a range of products such as soups, snacks, mini crackers, pasta and ready-made foods. It also owns the Israeli branch of the Helena Rubenstein cosmetics company.

Although in the last few months Osem has had to adapt to competition in a marketplace it previously dominated, analysts contend that its excellent management, state-of-the-art technology, growing domestic market and good export potential make it an attractive investment.

Experts contend that the influx of 180,000 Soviet Jews in 1990 will pale in comparision with the expected immigration of 400,000 in 1991, due to increased overt anti-Semitism in the U.S.S.R. This massive immigration will increase demand for food and make Israeli food companies good investments.

As well, by 1993 Israel will be in a unique position to access two of the world's largest markets. Israel currently has a free trade pact with the United States. The U.S. now is attempting to negotiate a trilateral deal with Canada and Mexico. In two years, Israel enters the European Community, with a market of 350 million people.

This acquistion will bring Claridge Israel's holdings to $125 million (U.S.)

A Bronfman spokesman was unavailable for comment at press time.

Pressure on yeshiva students over service

JERUSALEM (JTA) —

Yeshiva students who apply for exemption from military service to pursue religious studies may soon have to affirm legally that their only employment is the full-time study of Torah.

Legislation to that effect has been introduced by several Knesset members and endorsed by the Likud government, subject to consultations with the religious parties that are its coalition partners.

Soviet Jew hiding out in Canadian Embassy

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —

A Soviet Jew, cleared of a murder charge, is in the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, fearful that he will be re-arrested and sent to a psychiatric hospital if he leaves the Embassy.

Dmitri Berman, 26, who was refused an exit visa for Israel by the Soviet government, has been in the Embassy since Jan. 2 under what David Taylor, acting chief of mission, said is "temporary protection."

Dmitri fears that he will be injected with blood containing AIDS virus, his brother, Igor, told Genya Intrator, a Soviet Jewry activist here on Jan. 4.

All his brother's papers, including his passport and employment records have been confiscated.

Igor said Dmitri believes he is a victim of a vendetta by the court officials and prosecutor in the Ukrainian city of Nikolayev near the Black Sea because he was eventually set free after serving two years of a 13-year hard labor prison term for the alleged murder of a Moldavian soldier named Kiriak in the Red Army.

Dmitri has a statement from the procuratura of the Ukrainian Radyansky Socialist Republic under date of Aug. 24, 1990, stating that his participation in the crime has not been proven and the prosecution is ordered stopped.

Dmitri Berman

Igor told Intrator that when Dmitri went to pick up his exit visa for Israel in Nikolayev he was told that the procuratura had begun a new investigation of the crime. This came about, Dmitri was told, because the Moldavian Popular Front was angry over his being set free and had asked the central government in Moscow to keep him in the Soviet Union to face the charge again.

His father, Lev, his brother Igor, and his wife, Marina, their daughter, Svetlana, Marina's sister, Nadya, and her husband, Anatoly, and their daughter, Lena all have exit visas for Israel and are to leave Jan. 24.

In an appeal to Premier Gorbachev, Dmitri has threatened to commit suicide if he is arrested again.

Igor said the authorities plotted to keep Dmitri behind while the others were allowed to go. They did this, he said, by allowing the rest of the family to deregister their apartment and sell their possessions.

The story of Dmitri Berman reads like a Kafka novel. In statements he has given to the National Council of Soviet Jewry, which has an office in Moscow, Dmitri says he was given powerful neuroleptic drugs, beaten and tortured until he signed a false confession. He said he was arrested and kept eight months before trial without a warrant. At one point, he said, he was put into a ward with tuberculosis patients. He said he tried to commit suicide by cutting his jugular vein.

Intrator said it was Canada which responded first and most positively to Berman's request for refuge after several other countries had turned him down.

Canada

Entrepreneur honored by Hebrew U. Friends

Conrad Black praised for defending Israel's rights

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —

"Entrepreneur, publisher, financier, historian, Conrad Black is here tonight, not only as our guest of honor, and not only as someone who has put his money where his mouth is in terms of investing in the very vitality and competitiveness of Israeli democracy through his presence in the Jerusalem Post, but as a stout defender of the right of Israel to exist within secure and defensible borders."

With these words, Irving R. Gerstein, a Tribute co-chairman of the Conrad Black Tribute Dinner, introduced the dynamic and aggressive Canadian who has taken centre stage on the international economic and geopolitical scene.

The tribute dinner, sponsored by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, was held recently at Toronto's Sheraton Centre.

"My challenge," jested Gerstein, setting the tone for the light-hearted, yet analytical program, "in view of the care and scrutiny with which every thing said about our guest of honor is carefully assessed, is how to tell the truth about Conrad, and somehow, avoiding being sued in the process."

Gerstein said that Black took a small chain of newspapers, The Sterling Group, "and grew it in a determined fashion so that now The Hollinger Group's publications span continents with enormous influence — from the 1,800 daily circulation of the Eldorado, Illinois Register to London's great Daily Telegraph."

In his tribute to Black, Edward J. Winant, the national president of Canadian Friends of HU said that the award was being presented to Black in recognition of his support of Israel, his contribution to her economy, his association with the Hebrew University, and his commitment to excellence.

In presenting HU's Scopus Award to Black, Winant read the inscription which included, "In recognition of his outstanding commitment to freedom, scholarship, and the pursuit of excellence."

Other participants in the program included His Eminence G. Emmett Cardinal Carter, Henry N. R. Jackman, the dinner co-chairman with Michael G. Shulman, president of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, Consul General Benjamin Abileah, the consul-general of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada and Edward Bronfman.

The 46-year-old outspoken honoree wasted no time in clarifying his position with "so-called investigative journalists." Before commenting on the current scene in Israel, he spoke of his position following the purchase of the Jerusalem Post and his reaction to a particular segment of journalists.

"It is not the case that I think that all journalists should be drowned at birth and that the problem is entirely one of selection. I think that most journalists, like most people, are reasonable, conscientious and likeable, but some widespread journalistic habits raise perplexing problems for any liberal society, including Canada and Israel."

He spoke of the right to protect one's reputation from defamation in the press.

Turning to the State of Israel, Black commented, that in Israel, "a legendarily contestatious place, technically at war and attempting to cope with an insurrection in occupied Palestine, absurd histrionics from writers and journalists are not so surprising. Canada has no such excuses."

He said that it has never been clear to him why all the ingredients of peace are widely deemed to have to come from the Israelis alone. "A peace based exclusively on concessions wrung from Israel will be no peace at all. And a peace plan based on hectoring the United States to bully Israel to make unrequited concessions, is not a serious proposal."

Candidly, he added that Israeli opinion should become much less ambiguous on the issue of land for peace. "Jerusalem's version of Palestinian autonomy will have to be more imaginative and can't continue to be susceptible to the charge levelled against the Begin Plan of being mainly the freedom for the Palestinians to take out their own garbage."

Among his suggestions for the restoration of a reasonable state of post-intifada peace and order, he said Gaza sholuld be abandoned sooner rather than later, as the Cairo talks are finally opened and autonomy in all matters except foreign and security policy is accepted as residing in the Palestinian negotiators in Cairo and a new financial package should at the same time be offered the Arab municipalities, conditional upon the restoration of a reasonable state of post-intifada peace and order.

He said that at the Hebrew University, whose campuses were separated by Israel's borders with Jordan for 19 years prior to 1967, "there is absolutely no differentiation, no discrimination and no separation between Arab and Jew. And, of course, there are no quotas."

He added that students from the West Bank "defy PLO strike orders at the risk to their lives," sneak out of their towns and villages to attend courses. "The University affords us a glimpse of what life in the Middle East can be when peace comes."

He concluded that only the Israelis can judge what their security requires. "I cannot help remembering the Security Council's condemnation of Israel in 1981 for destroying the Iraqi nuclear reactor. At the time, the United States imposed sanctions, briefly suspending the shipment of fighter aircraft, and the United Nations not only condemned Israel, but demanded that Israel compensate Iraq for the Osirak reactor.

"One need not possess a hyperactive imagination to know what threat Saddam Hussein would have posed today had that reactor remained intact."

He concluded with, "The flame of toleration often flickers, but it will not be extinguished in Israel or in Canada."

Edward Winant (left), the national president of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jeruslaem, presents the Scopus Award to Conrad Black.

Arnold to help rebuild Jewish Historical Society

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG —

Well known writer and historian Abe Arnold is leading a national effort to rejuvenate the Canadian Jewish Historical Society and put it on a more solid footing.

Arnold was named acting chair of an interim committee at the CJHS's 15th annual conference in Victoria in May following the resignation of Victor Sefton, the organization's founding president.

In September, Arnold met with Jewish historical society representatives and academics in Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. He also contacted societies in Halifax and St. John, N.B., and an interim executive from across the country was put together.

"People are helping in different parts of the country," Arnold said. "I didn't know there were so many societies and publications."

The immediate emphasis is on enrolling members. "The CJHS has never had a formal membership, only subscribers to our journal," he said.

From the local societies and the Canadian Jewish Congress, the CJHS has compiled a list of 2,000 prospective members. They will be receiving membership application forms in the mail. Membership is $25 ($10 for seniors and students). Local societies are also being invited to affiliate with the national body. Members of local societies can join the CJHS for $15.

"We hope to build up closer relationships with all groups across the country and be able to exchange information," said Arnold. "We also want to establish bridges with the academic community."

Plans are underway, funding permitting, to resume publication of the CJHS Journal including a festschrift honoring Mon-

[Cont'd. on page 32]

Officials cleared in Starr case

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —

The first two charges of violating Ontario's election finances law in relation to the Patti Starr scandal have been dismissed.

Starr, the one-time head of a charitable foundation associated with the National Council of Jewish Women (Toronto section) is alleged to have improperly funnelled charity funds to about 25 politicians, mostly provincial Liberals.

Late last month, charges against the former chief financial officers of two provincial ridings were thrown out because it was ruled that both followed procedures as they understood them.

The first charge, against Larry Ward, former chief financial officer for Susan Fish, who ran for the provincial Tories in St. George riding in 1987, was dismissed because Ward was found to have followed procedures for returning excess funds.

Court heard that Ward received a cheque from Starr, dated August, 1987, in the amount of $1,500.

Ward said that since the maximum allowable contribution to political campaigns is $750, he returned half the amount.

The judge ruled that Ward "did what he was supposed to do."

Ward was charged because he allegedly failed to return the cheque, which was not properly identified.

It was signed "P. Starr," and the law requires the contributor's name to be printed legibly on the cheque.

But Ward testified that no mention was made of the need to return improperly identified cheques during his training to be Fish's chief financial officer.

And he said that once he read about Starr, he contacted the Election Finances Commission and "disclosed everything."

The second charge, against Larry Coghill, former chief financial officer for failed Tory candidate in York Mills, Gordon Chong, was also dismissed last month.

Coghill testified he received a cheque for $1,500 in August, 1987, signed by P. Starr, and that he had no way of knowing it was from a charity.

Attached to the cheque was a list of 10 names and a note demanding that each receive a receipt for $300.

Coghill said he later learned that the request for the receipts was mistakenly sent to him, and should have gone to the riding's Liberal candidate, Brad Nixon, who was to receive $3,000.

Coghill said he made out 10 receipts for $150 each and mailed them out.

The Crown said Coghill broke the law by merely accepting the cheque.

The charges against Ward and Coghill were among 70 laid last June under the Election Finances Act.

Also facing charges is Morris Flicht, former vice-president and treasurer of the Wilson Heights Liberal Association.

The three charges against Flicht allege he "knowingly" accepted a rented car for use by the riding's Liberal MPP, Monte Kwinter, the value of which was $1,400; that he made a false statement to the commission, and that he accepted a cheque for $750 on behalf of the riding from The

[Cont'd. on page 30]

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Lloyd Axworthy

Yasser Arafat

Svend Robinson

Accused of playing into PLO hands

MPs criticized for meeting Arafat

By
PAUL LUNGEN

OTTAWA —

Jewish organizations have condemned a meeting by two Canadian MPs with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in which they requested his assistance in securing the release of Canadian hostages held by Iraq.

Terming the PLO leader's role a "cynical maneuvre," Canadian Jewish Congress said the intervention was a "transparent contrivance for dubious political ends."

Congress said in a news release that "there is no evidence that Arafat's intervention was helpful in releasing the Canadian hostages."

Three Canadian MPs — Bob Corbett, Lloyd Axworthy and Svend Robinson — journeyed to Baghdad in November in a bid to convince Iraqi authorities to release 45 Canadians held as hostages. They returned with five. Iraq later released the others along with hostages from other Western countries.

During their week-long stay in Baghdad, Corbett, past president of the Canada-Arab Association, and Robinson met with Arafat to request his help in obtaining the release of the hostages. Axworthy did not attend the meeting, saying "I felt there was nothing I could contribute.

"I have had no association with the (PLO) so it was something I didn't feel I wanted to do."

B'nai Brith Canada said the appeal to Arafat by Robinson in advance of the MPs' departure for the Middle East was "foolish and misguided."

"The PLO has never given up terror, nor given up its goal of destroying Israel," BBC president Marilyn Weinberg said. "Saddam Hussein is a powerful ally towards this goal."

"Arafat, who has embraced Saddam and allied himself with Iraq, is no humanitarian, nor friend of freedom and peace," said Ian Kagedan, BB's director of government relations.

However, Hassan Abdel Rahman, the PLO's representative in Canada and the United States, said Arafat, for "humanitarian reasons," directed the PLO's ambassador in Baghdad to meet with Iraqi officials to seek the release of Canadians.

Rahman told The CJN he had sent a letter to Arafat requesting he assist the Canadian delegation, "and he did his utmost."

He said the subsequent meeting with the PLO chief was reported in Middle Eastern newspapers and that Canada's External Affairs department was informed of it.

He said Arafat had helped secure the release of other hostages, including some from France and Brazil, and that Arafat, along with Jordan's King Hussein and Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, was instrumental in convincing Saddam to release all foreign hostages.

Simon Kahn, associate director of the political bureau of the Canada-Israel Committee, questioned Arafat's effectiveness in aiding in the release of the five Canadians.

Other countries dispatched envoys to Iraq and secured the release of larger numbers of hostages without the PLO leader's intervention, he said.

Kahn suggested the recent reports of Arafat's purported role — which was revealed about one month after the hostages were released — was part of a PLO public relations campaign to sanitize its image.

"It's a desperate attempt to look clean," he said. "They're trying to paint themselves as good samaritans" in the wake of the PLO's decision to side with Saddam in the Gulf crisis.

"I don't think anyone can say any one factor was crucial," Axworthy said. "The fact of going there and making the case was what really counted."

Funding shortage may close BBYO

TORONTO —

B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) in Canada will be "phased out in the least hurtful way possible" if it cannot raise enough money to keep programs funded and staff paid, says BBYO's international director.

Sidney Clearfield told The CJN in a telephone interview from Washington that he was "upset and dismayed" by B'nai Brith Canada's recent decision to cut funding to BBYO Canada by the end of this month because of recessionary austerity measures [CJN, Jan. 3].

Last year, BBC funded BBYO with $400,000 for a myriad of youth programs and five staff in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Calgary.

Now, BBYO Canada, with 1,600 members aged 12 to 18, will have to raise its own funds to keep going, and BBC has mounted an emergency appeal for money.

BBC began funding BBYO in 1980. Prior to that, BBYO's funds came from BBYO International, which still controls the Canadian group's programming.

Clearfield said BBC gave BBYO "a very short period of time" to come up with money. "We're attempting to locate other sources of funds, and that includes affiliating with local federations."

But if BBYO can't raise the necessary funds by Jan. 31, it will be phased out in Canada, Clearfield said.

Ed Yalowitz, the Chicago-based chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission — the lay board responsible for BBYO — said BBC's decision satisfied legal requirements, "but coming with no warning caused a lot of dismay and chagrin.

"They (BBC) are not being reasonable in cutting the funds. They should have continued them."

Yalowitz said help for BBYO Canada from B'nai B'rith International is "not feasible."

Notices of termination were mailed out last month to the five BBYO staff in Canada.

BBYO's Lake Ontario Region (which includes Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y. as well as all Ontario, except Windsor) has been told to raise $100,000 by Jan. 31.

The Laurentian Region (essentially Montreal) must come up with $50,000.

Marla Usheroff, BBYO director in Montreal, said it's very hard to raise money in January.

"I don't know if it's possible. Parents and board members are away, and the city is just waking up from the holidays."

But BBC president Marilyn Wainberg is more optimistic.

"Montreal is already committed to raising the money. I'm 99.9 per cent positive that (Lake Ontario and Laurentian Regions) will be fine.

"And I'm sure the West (Red River Region and North-West Region) will be fine too."

Wainberg said the BBYO regions don't have to raise all the money they have been told to raise by Jan. 31, just enough to keep programs going and staff paid for the foreseeable future. — R.C.

Some prices expected to rise

GST hits religious items

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —

If you've purchased a prayer book or any religious artifact since Jan. 1, you may have noticed something new on your bill: the Goods and Services Tax.

From now on, the 7 per cent GST will be levied on all books, including Bibles, siddurim and machsurim.

It will also be charged on all artifacts, even those used in religious ceremonies, such as kiddush cups, menorahs and seder plates.

Prior to the GST, books were tax exempt — both federally and provincially — but religious and ceremonial items were not.

However, before Jan. 1, the 13.5 per cent federal sales tax was calculated on wholesale prices, whereas the FST's replacement, the GST, is added onto retail prices.

That means some religious items may increase in price, while the price of books will definitely rise, merchants agree.

Also up as a result of the GST are the price of periodicals, magazines and newspapers. Most of these will have their price increases built into their cover prices.

(The CJN's newsstand price has gone from 60 cents to 65 cents, including GST).

"It's not right," says Riva Green, co-owner of Matana Judaica in Thornhill. "I'm sure it's not just the Jewish community. A Christian buying a religious article or a Bible will have to pay the GST. Why tax something used in a religious ceremony?"

Sellers of Judaica are confused because it's not clear what will happen to duty charged on imported goods.

At Matana, 90 per cent of the stock is imported, either from the United States or Israel. Green says items such as tallesim, tzitzit, tefillen and ceremonial goods are subject to the GST but are duty free.

However, if Ottawa imposes duties on those and other imported items, their prices will rise, Green says.

"Anyway you look at it, the consumer loses," says Green, adding she fears a loss of business to the United States.

Israel Kaplan, owner of Israel's, the Judaica Centre, says he's "not comfortable" with the GST mainly because it is charged on books.

"Sixty to 70 per cent of my business is book sales," says Kaplan. "The whole thing is very confusing. There's a lot of uncertainty."

Both Kaplan and Green agree that the price of parchments for mezuzot will rise because the parchments are considered books.

"It's not fair," says Green. "What if you have 10 rooms in your house and you need 10 parchments? That's a significant increase for the observant consumer."

In 1989, Canadian Jewish Congress asked the federal government to make religious texts and articles GST exempt.

"We believe it is inappropriate for the government to be seen as imposing a tax on the pursuit of religious observance," CJC said at the time.

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Encountered no trouble at customs

Maissners bring religious items to Jews in U.S.S.R.

TORONTO —

Soviet customs officials didn't seem too concerned when Holy Blossom Temple Cantor Benjamin Maissner and his wife Hope took with them on a trip last autumn to the U.S.S.R. four large duffel bags crammed with books and artifacts.

Cantor Maissner, whose two-week trip was funded by the temple and its Soviet Jewry committee, took with him tallisim, kipot, tfillin, prayer books, Hebrew text books, cassettes of Hebrew and Israeli music, two tape recorders, medicine, wine, clothing and even an electric typewriter.

"We were not stopped or questioned by Soviet customs. They seemed totally unimpressed in what was coming into the country," Cantor Maissner says.

On their two-week tour of the Soviet Union in October and November, during which they visited activists, refuseniks, synagogues and the temple's "adopted" family, Cantor and Mrs. Maissner established contact with a secular choir in Leningrad, which invited the Holy Blossom Temple Singers for an exchange visit.

Cantor Maissner reports that at the Leningrad Choir Synagogue, there is a Hebrew day school with about 110 children in 15 classes. It also runs a kosher kitchen for children and synagogue staff.

Most of the children in the school are from families planning to emigrate, and are studying in preparation to leave, as well as because public schools are "terrible," Cantor Maissner says.

The Maissners also journeyed to Moscow's liberal congregation, Hineni, which is attended by about 50 people. The number fluctuates, with new worshippers coming each week.

The congregation's leader is "a very sincere, committed man," but his level of Jewish knowledge is "really minimal. As an example, he wears tallis whenever reading Hebrew or teaching; on Friday night, Saturday Havdala or on Sunday morning for children's school."

Cantor Maissner took part in the shul's Havdala service, the first time in 50 years that a cantor sang in the synagogue, "but again, it underlined their need for a knowledgeable Jewish presence. They really had no understanding of what Havdala was."

There is talk of turning the building into a health club for government officials and "certain Orthodox elements are attempting to gain use of the building simply to exclude Hineni," Cantor Maissner claims.

At another Moscow building, which was once a synagogue, the caretaker is willing to allow Hineni use of space, but only in return for access to a photocopying machine.

The Maissners met with Roman Sorkin, head of Holy Blossom's "adopted" family. Sorkin travelled 14 hours by train from Penza to Moscow, and Cantor Maissner says he is depressed about not getting his exit visa.

Jewish life in Penza is "practically non-existent." Sorkin's son was studying with a rabbi, who has died.

The Maissners spent five days in Samarkand, where they looked into the need for a Hebrew teacher, who could be supplied by Canadian Jewish Congress for a three-month period.

There are about 11,000 Jews in Samarkand, mainly Bucharian Jews who have large cultural differences with their Ashkenazi counterparts, "even though they don't talk about it," Cantor Maissner says.

The two groups don't mingle and have their own schools and synagogues.

The Ashkenazi Jews now want their own cultural centre as well as specific books, tapes, and other items.

"It is our feeling that this need be respected and material sent should accommodate each group," Cantor Maissner says.

The Maissners met with the leaders of the Samarkand communities, who said there is no conflict between them.

The dwellings in the Jewish quarter look poor from the outside but most Jews live quite comfortably, Cantor Maissner says.

There is plenty of food and the poverty seen in other Soviet centres is not evident in Samarkand, he adds.

Rafael Neklalov, president of Samarkand's Jewish Cultural Centre, is planning to visit the United States and would like to come to Canada. He needs an official invitation, and Cantor Maissner suggests Canadian Jewish Congress undertake the task to bring him here.

Cantor Benjamin Maissner visited the U.S.S.R. with his wife.

Visiting Russian Jews seek to stay in Canada

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —

About 1,000 Russian Jews visiting Canada who do not want to go back because of anti-Semitism have applied to stay as refugees. But, says Susan Davis, national executive director, Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, they face a situation "fraught with difficulty."

It may take from nine months to three years for their applications to be decided, without any guarantee they can stay, and in the meantime they won't be able to find jobs or get social assistance, she said.

One of the reasons for this serious situation developing is that the Canadian Jewish community has failed to take an aggressive enough stand on their behalf, but there are signs this is changing, Davis said in an interview with The CJN.

"We've not been very daring in our approach, we haven't laid it on the line."

(The Pacific Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress has asked the CJC to intercede with the government.)

The Canadian government ended a self-exile designation last September and so Russian Jews must apply as landed immigrants if they can show qualification in certain occupations, close family relatives in Canada, or the ability to start a business.

With only one visa officer in the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, Russian Jews face delays of up to two years in processing such an application, Davis said.

She told of a single mother with a baby who is here visiting a second cousin once removed who cannnot qualify under the family provision.

Jewish communities in Canada must face up to what they are ready to do to help the 1,000 Russian refugee applicants, the JIAS director said.

What the Canadian government should do is declare a designated class of unprotected minorities without national homelands in the U.S.S.R. such as Jews and Mennonites who would be eligible for admission to Canada, she said.

"The government has taken such humanitarian action in the past, they have the discretionary powers to do it. It can be done and it has been done."

In a recent statement, Barbara McDougall, minister of employment and immigration, said Canada will take action in the event of an emergency affecting Jews in the Soviet Union.

The 1,000 refugee applicants are in a tenuous situation, Davis said. "Will they be deported? Will they be sent to Israel?"

One of the refugee applicants is a man whose apartment door in Kiev was set on fire and the words "dirty Jew" written on the top of it, Stephen W. Green, an immigration lawyer, told The CJN.

"His life was just terrible there," Green said. "He has a sister in Canada but she can't sponsor him because she is not in business. And he can't qualify as an independent under the occupations class because as a Jew he was not allowed to finish his training at a university."

It will not be easy for the Russian applicants to establish their status as conventional refugees despite tha anti-Semitic developments in the Soviet Union, Green said.

RETRACTION

Yossi Schwartz, a Toronto lawyer, participated in a panel discussion on the intifada at Seneca College in March 1990.

In our March 22 and Dec. 6 editions, The CJN quoted two persons as having heard Schwartz refer to Jews as "murderers" on that occasion.

In a letter to The CJN dated Dec. 13, Schwartz denies that he made such a reference and has demanded a retraction.

The CJN retracts this allegation.

In his letter to The CJN, Schwartz says:

"It is true that I believe and I have stated many times that the Israeli government is a criminal government which violates systematically the Palestinians' human rights as codified in the Geneva Conventions. It is true that the bloody murdering acts of the Israeli army in the West Bank and Gaza brings to mind the actions of the Gestapo but only narrow-minded nationalists like yourselves can argue that this means that I call all Jews murderers."

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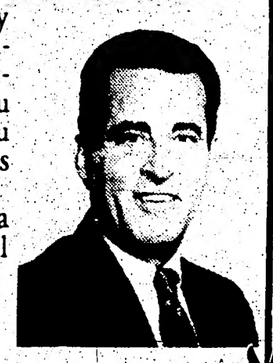

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Felsen acclaimed as chairman

Ronen elected president of Jewish Students Network

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — The method of election of a president of the North American Jewish Students Network proved to be a last-minute issue at the otherwise tranquil five-day Canadian convention of the organization.

The newly installed national executive of Network Canada, headed by Joey Felsen who was acclaimed chairman, at a closed meeting selected Dan Ronen, a 26-year-old University of Windsor student, as its choice for North American president.

Ronen, brother of Moshe Ronen, the only Canadian to serve as Network president during its 13-year history, had put forth his candidacy for chairman, but withdrew it on election day, throwing his support behind Felsen.

At the final Saturday night banquet, convention coordinator Laura Rosen announced her candidacy for the presidency, charging that the Network constitution calls for the president to be elected by a general assembly of the Canadian and U.S. organizations by ballot in the same manner as the chairman's position.

Rosen, a third-year University of Toronto student, said democracy within the organization is threatened if the president is chosen by a few and not elected by the rank and file. Toronto-headquartered Network, which is funded by the National Budgeting Conference, does not have a formal membership; all post-high school Jewish students are eligible to participate in its activities.

Normally, the Canadian and American wings of Network hold a joint international conference where the president has usually been acclaimed. This year, however, the Americans held their conference in Israel and, the Canadians — because they could not get sufficient funding from the community, according to outgoing chairman Stephen Granovsky — in Montreal.

Granovsky, a York University student who completed his two-year chairmanship at the conference, told the CJN the national executives of the Canadian and American wings of Network would at an undetermined date meet or hold a conference telephone call to decide who should be the next president.

Current president, American Jacob Davidson, has come to the end of his term. It was not known at the time if the Americans had made their own choice for the top post at their current conference in Israel.

Although Rosen was unable to force an election in the waning hours of the conference, she suggested an election could be held by mail or even fax balloting.

The Network constitution describes the president as the "titular head" and chief spokesperson of the organization, representing Network at the World Union of Jewish Students and other international bodies.

"I think it's a crime and appalling that the executive is ready to appoint a president without many (of the 164 delegates at the convention) even knowing the position of president is open or who was being considered. Representing North American Jewish students is an important position...The rules appear to be made up as they go along," Rosen said in an interview.

She noted the high number of acclamations among executive posts as an indication that Network is not "fostering a climate where more people feel comfortable offering their candidacy."

Ronen, who returned to university this year after working for awhile, said he felt he is qualified because he has held executive positions with Network since 1982.

The three major issues he sees as a student leader are: intermarriage, helping Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel, support for Israel ("We may question and inquire about the state, but Israel is our hope, our savior."), and making Network more attractive to older students.

It was because Felsen concurred with these priorities that he withdrew his candidacy for chairman, Ronen said.

Felsen is a second-year public policy administration student at York University, a past national chairman of NAHON (North American High School Organization Network) and former national coordinator of Network.

He called for a "revolution" to get students to be "taken seriously and get the respect they deserve," namely, that student activities not be shortchanged by the community fund-allocators.

NBC did not fund this conference, as has been the custom, Felsen said, because it felt the money could be better spent on developing regional programming. A grant was obtained by Network from the federal multiculturalism department.

Felsen is angered by B'nai Brith Canada's recent cuts in funding to BBYO and Hillels on a number of campuses and what he sees as a cavalier attitude by BBC executive vice-president Frank Dimant in particular.

Felsen said Dimant told him funding was being slashed because BBC is "getting nothing back on its investment" in student activities.

"This makes me ill, and other organizations are not much different."

Another goal of Felsen, who describes himself as "grassroots," is to decentralize Network, giving its regional branches more autonomy and encouraging individual students to come up with ideas. "This is a national organization that should not be dictated to by Toronto."

Felsen believes student activism is returning, and is necessary to fight assimilation and the pro-Arab "propaganda war" on campuses. "My main message is the energy is back (among Jewish students)."

Protests, rallies and hunger strikes are means Network may use under Felsen's term to draw attention to issues.

Felsen is the youngest chairman ever of Network Canada, although he adds that he has 5½ years experience.

The most discussed among a handful of resolutions at the convention was Homeward Bound, a plan initially to send 5,000 North American students to Israel, primarily those who had never visited the country before next December.

It was decided to drop a target number for the meantime, however. Opponents suggested community money at this time should go to the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel and that getting the level of funding sought was unrealistic.

The original idea was to raise $250,000 each from six major organizations, such as United Israel Appeal and Hadassah-WIZO, to subsidize the trips of the 5,000.

Last year, Network organized a similar trip to Israel for over 500 students.

Felsen said he is in favor of a large-scale Homeward Bound if funds are not diverted directly from Operation Exodus by the sponsoring organizations. Tourism and the presence of Jewish students are good for Israel, he reasons.

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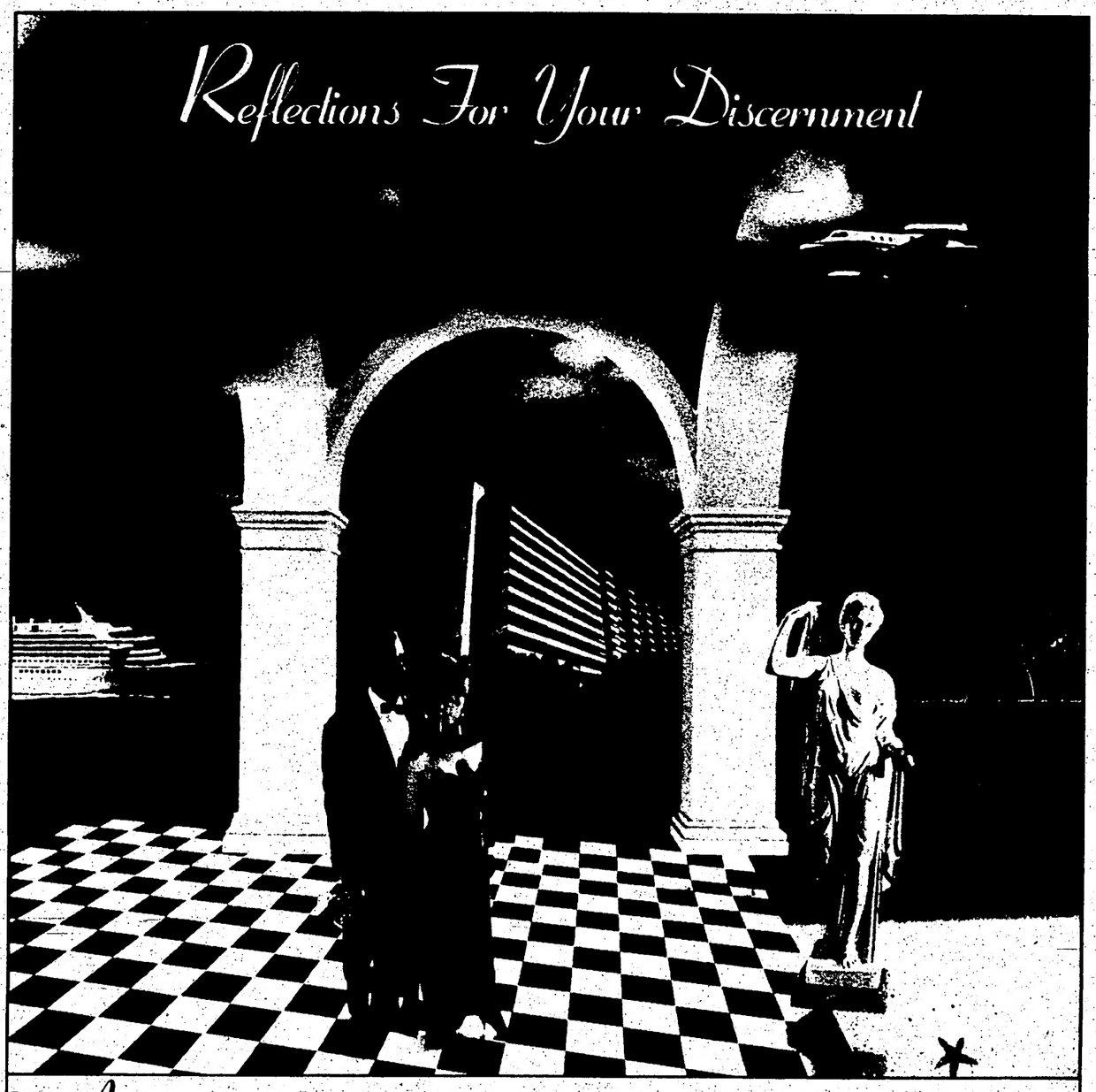
DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?

If you know where any of the persons listed below are presently residing, please inform the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 5151 Cote St. Catherine Rd., Montreal, P.Q. H3W 1M6, Tel: 342-9351.

1. **BAS, Rita** and her brother, **Sania**. Children of the late Abraam Bas.
2. **BIALIK, Ida** - born in the USSR and later lived in Lodz, Poland. After World War II immigrated to Montreal, where she had an uncle.
3. **DIKOPF, Yeshak** - born in 1948, in the USSR; photographer. Immigrated to Canada in 1974.
4. **DRAZNIK, Yakov** - born in 11/11-1919. Son of Pesakh, husband of Ekaterina, nee Chernetsova; both physicians. Parents of Vladimir, born in 1947, and Motello, born around 1956. Last known address: Ramat-Gan, Israel. Believed to have immigrated to Canada around 1984.
5. **FIRESTEIN (Fayerstein), Yevgenia** - born in Kalarash, Moldavia, in 1945. Sister of Maria and Lena.
6. **GELMAN, Yakov Khalevich** - born in 1932-33 in Chernyi Ostrov. Brother of Genia.
7. **GOLDIN, Leon** or his descendants - husband of Sabina. Former address: 2715 Darlington Place, Montreal.
8. **GREENSTEYN, Sophie** - born in Canada 1910-1915. Mother's maiden name Shvindlerman.
9. **GRILL, Anna** - born in Munich, Germany on February 15, 1933. Daughter of Meir and Minna Grill. Arrived in Montreal in May, 1953, aboard the "Fair Sea". Sister of Rosa.
10. **GRINBERG, Peysach** - son of Gersh; born in Kamenets-Podolsk. Immigrated to Canada in 1920's.
11. **GUREWITZ (Gurevich), Yakov** - born in Memel, Lithuania, in 1918. Lived in Vilnius. Ostensibly now in Montreal.
12. **GUTKIN, Ruth** or any of her descendants. Ruth Gutkin was born in Donbas, Russia, in 1916; daughter of Abram and Mary, niece of Esther Gutkina.
13. **KING, John** - son of Cyril, born about 1925. Brother of Maria, who was born in 1929. Uncle of Naomi. Last known address: Brooklin Rd., Manchester, 23.
14. **KOGAN, Boris** - born in the USSR, 1942-43. Lived in Leningrad. Graduate of Mukhinsky Institute of Industrial Design.
15. **LANGSTON, Charlotte (nee Liptsin)**. Believed to be in Montreal. Daughter of Osip and Rosanna Liptsin, sister of Grigory.
16. **LEVINSON, Zinovy** - born in Toronto in 1918. Son of Abram, who was born in Kreuzburg, Russia, a violinist by profession.
17. **MOGILNITSKY, Efraim** - son of Joseph and Sara, brother of Gersh and Avram. Believed to have immigrated to Canada after World War II.
18. **OSIPOVICH, Abram** - son of Isaak, brother of Betia, father of Oscar and Leonid. Owned printing firm.
19. **PELTZ, Ettel** - married name unknown, born in 1925, Ungen, Moldavia. Daughter of Godel and Sara, sister of Tuba. Immigrated to Canada around 1948.
20. **PTASZYNSKI, Leonard** - born June 20, 1948 in Barlin, France. Son of Martin-Jacques and Cecilia Zarembianka, brother of Richard-Jean of Lille, France.
21. **RABINOVICH, David** - whose father immigrated from Kolno, Poland, before World War I. In the 1930's David Rabinovich maintained contact with the Machovetsky family who lived in Kharkov, USSR.
22. **SCHREIBER** - daughter of the late Fania Garten nee Tzingisser, husband's name Ronald; had lived at 27 Normandy Drive, TMR, Montreal.
23. **STEIN (Steinman), Herst** - born in Bretany, Bessarabia. Known to have lived in Montreal from 1945-50.
24. **SOBEL, Dorothy** - daughter of Jacob and Goldie Sobel (nee Rosenthal). Sister of the late Ken Sobel, who was executive for Radio and Television station in Hamilton, Ontario.
25. **YAFFE, Arnold** - son of Moisey, born on December 31, 1913 in Baranovich, Bielorussia. Husband of Harriet, father of Moritz, brother of Slava, who was born in 1915.
26. **SCHENKMAN, Mikhail (Michael)** - musician from USSR. Believed to be residing somewhere in Canada.



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Soviet Jewry

These children, new Russian immigrants, wait in the foyer of a Tel-Aviv hotel where they will stay until accommodation is available. More than 180,000 Soviet Jews immigrated to Israel in 1990. [IPPA photo]

35,070 in December alone

Soviet aliya sets new record

NEW YORK (JTA) — Just over 35,000 Soviet Jews immigrated to Israel in December, bringing total Soviet aliya for 1990 to more than 180,000.

The United Israel Appeal said total Soviet immigration for the year was 184,195, while the National Conference on Soviet Jewry put the total at 181,759.

In either case, that is the highest yearly total on record. More Soviet Jews arrived in Israel over the last 12 months than in the previous 21 years combined since NCSJ's Soviet Jewry Research Bureau began keeping records of Soviet Jewish emigration in October 1968, observed Shoshana Cardin, the organization's chairman.

"We are gratified that a record 35,070 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel during December," said Cardin. She said it is a figure that "demonstrates that the Soviet Union continues to live up to its international commitment to provide for free emigration for its citizens, including its still sizeable Jewish population."

Cardin said while her organization is "delighted" with the unprecedented emigration rate from the Soviet Union, it expects Soviet authorities to "live up to their human rights obligations" by enacting long-promised emigration reform legislation.

She also urged the Soviet government to implement the agreement it signed in 1989 for direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv.

The massive Soviet aliya contributed significantly to the population growth in Israel last year, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem.

It estimated the present population of Israel at 4,882,000, a 5.7 per cent increase in the last 12 months and the greatest annual population growth since 1951.

Soviet aliya was responsible for nearly 30 per cent of that increase, the Israeli statistical bureau reported.

Newcomers in fact exceeded natural growth. Immigrants, mainly from the Soviet Union, numbered 199,526 in 1990, compared with 104,000 children born in Israel during the year.

The immigrants also included 4,153 Jews from Ethiopia, including 535 who arrived in December, according to Daniel Allen, assistant executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal. UIA is the U.S. representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which funds the transportation costs and a portion of the initial absorption expenses for new immigrants.

David Magen, Israel's minister of economics and planning, said that at the present rate, the Jewish population of Galilee will in two years outnumber the Arab population for the first time.

He predicted there will be 600,000 Jews and 400,000 Arabs in Galilee by 1993. Two years ago, 335,000 Jews and 383,000 non-Jews lived in the region.

Meanwhile, Israel's deputy foreign minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, sounded a note of alarm last week when he called publicly for an immediate emergency plan to "evacuate" millions of Soviet Jews.

Writing in the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Netanyahu, a Likud Knesset member, cited the volatile, unpredictable economic and political situation inside the Soviet Union.

He warned that with rise of right-wing, anti-Semitic sentiments as the authority of the central government seems to weaken, there is no knowing how long it will be possible for Jews to leave the Soviet Union.

In the event of a collapse in the Soviet Union "two or even three million" Jews will want to leave for Israel at once, he said.

The emergency plan must focus on the logistics of exit through additional points of departure and transfer, Netanyahu said. It must contemplate the lodging of newcomers in tent cities near public service buildings that would serve them.

The deputy foreign minister urged emergency legislation to free state-owned lands for the initial settlement process. He also called for special legislation to overcome bureaucratic delays or, failing that, to invoke wartime emergency regulations.

World Jewry has raised an unprecedented $600 million this year for the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel. But already Diaspora leaders are talking about how to raise an additional $1.3 billion.

Canada urged to allow greater immigration

By MAURICE LUCOW

VANCOUVER — The Jewish community should lobby the federal government more forcefully to permit large numbers of Soviet Jews to enter Canada, says the Pacific Region of Canadian Jewish Congress.

In a letter sent to Jewish parliamentary affairs committee members of the CJC across Canada, Renee Bellas, chairman of the Pacific Region's J-PAC says that in 1989 no more than 1,000 Soviets were accepted into Canada . . . and not all were Jewish. The total for 1990 is not expected to be any different, she says.

Bellas goes on to say that "when Barbara McDougall recently announced increased levels of immigration to this country, she included a quota of 30,000 people in total from all Eastern European countries. In addition, it was announced that 'family class' would be tightened up and investment type of immigration would be encouraged.

"All of this," says Bellas, "leads me to the conclusion that the doors are being shut before our eyes. Our region believes that these indications should be ringing an alarm bell across the country. None is Too Many must not be repeated."

Bellas says that Operation Exodus is supported here "without question." But, she adds, "as Canadian Jews we must insist that at the very least, any Soviet Jews with family members in Canada should be welcomed to this country — and we must clearly say that while we support the exodus to Israel, it will take years to move upward of two million Jews to the homeland."

The Pacific Region declares that "Canada has a historical and moral obligation to open its doors to Jews in trouble. Canadian Jewish Congress, both nationally and regionally, must send this message to our government. The Canadian Jewish community has failed in its obligation to come to a consensus on this issue and we must do it now, before it's too late."

Bellas says Congress cannot eliminate its ties with the parliamentary committee for Soviet Jewry and must tell the minister (McDougall) that Canadian Jewry is not satisfied with the status quo. "Unless we tell her otherwise, collectively and strongly, nothing will move her to think otherwise."

The problem, Bellas points out, is that as of Aug. 31, 1990, Soviet Jews have no longer been considered refugees by Canada. Any Soviet Jews wanting to come here must apply either as an independent or be sponsored by close family members. JIAS has been advised by Immigration Canada that it no longer qualifies as an organization to sponsor individuals from the USSR because "refugee" is no longer a classification open to them.

Consequently, Bellas says, it is very difficult now for Soviet Jews to qualify for entry into Canada. Even under the family sponsorship program, there is a points requirement, and an individual can be rejected if job, language and other skills do not fall within the acceptable guidelines.

Bellas says the United States Congress is accepting 50,000 Jewish refugees from the U.S.S.R. in 1990 and 1991. "The United States," she says, "still considers Soviet Jews to be refugees and this is one area where Canada should be following the U.S. model."

Bellas says in her letter that the matter of Soviet Jews as refugees was brought to the attention of the CJC's national executive meeting held last month in Toronto. She says her letter, "has the unanimous endorsement of the Pacific Region's board."

The Pacific Region has sent copies of the letter to all small community representatives in the region and has enclosed a petition to the Canadian government urging action on the matter.

The Jews of British Columbia, says the petition, urge the Canadian government to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation and participate in the rescue of Soviet Jews by:

- Immediately easing entry restrictions for Jewish family members seeking to reunify with their Canadian relatives;
- Acknowledging that the closed door policy of 1939 "effectively preventing Jewish immigration" must not be repeated.

Marilyn Berger, assistant director of the region, who handles the small communities, urges them "to sign the petition and send it back to the region's office in Vancouver as soon as possible.

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Pick up street smarts

Russians learn quickly

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO — Young Russian olim in Israel are picking up street slang and awareness of stereotypes so rapidly that they already know the tensions which exist between religious and non-religious segments of the country's population.

Rabbi Benjy Levene of the Gesher Foundation, who lives in Jerusalem, said he has presented his show Four Faces of Israel to five groups of young Russian Jews in Hebrew (with Russian translation) and they understood its message.

He spoke at Congregation B'nai Torah in Toronto as a guest of Rabbi Raphael Marcus.

Four Faces of Israel presents an ultra-orthodox rabbi who does not recognize the State of Israel, a secular bus driver, an assimilated Jewish artist, and an American Jewish millionaire. Levene plays all four parts and answers questions from the audience.

In his Toronto visit, Rabbi Levene recalled that he performed Four Faces of Israel under entirely difference circumstances in a Moscow apartment five years ago.

The props he needed were smuggled into the apartment one at a time so as not to arouse any suspicion. About 60 Hebrew teachers attended the performance.

News about the show spread so quickly that by the time Levene reached Leningrad the KGB was on his trail. They arrested him as an Israeli agent posing as an American tourist and put him on a Finnish plane for Helsinki the next day.

Levene says it is essential for the Russian olim to learn something about their Jewish identity and the Gesher Foundation has developed special programs for them. "If they don't connect with their Yiddishkeit they'll have no reason to remain in Israel," he said.

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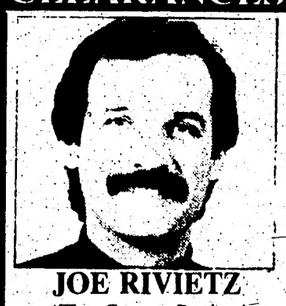

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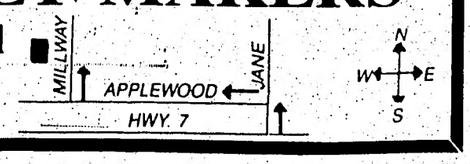

IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR

From January 1 to December 31, 1990, a total of 184,500 Soviet Jews came on Aliyah to Israel.

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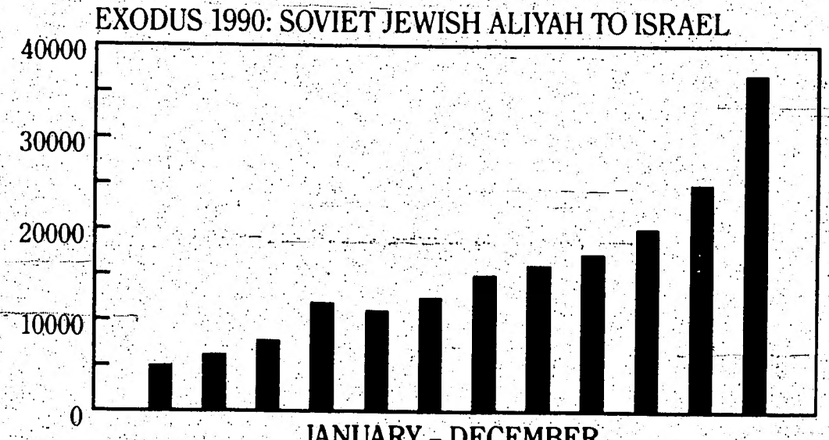
The tremendous challenges of bringing even greater numbers to Israel and absorbing them successfully are still ahead of us. But as we begin 1991, it is time to say to every contributor, worker and volunteer:

Thank you for responding so magnificently...
It's been a great year!



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World

PROGRAMS FOR BLIND

A visitor to the Jewish Braille Institute of America's booth at the Jewish Book Fair in New York City is shown a large-print volume of the Five Books of Moses in Hebrew by Cantor Mindy Fliegelman (left), administrator of Library Services at JBI. Cantor Fliegelman, who is blind, discussed the many JBI religious publications available free to blind, visually-impaired and reading disabled persons. [David Karp photo]

Slovaks memorialize victims of Holocaust

PRAGUE (JTA) —

Members of the National Council, the parliament of the Slovak republic, observed a minute of silence recently in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, after acknowledging that anti-Semitic acts were perpetrated by Slovaks during the Second World War.

They vowed that would never happen again.

A declaration was read at a Dec. 20 session of the National Council by a member of parliament, Jana Mistrikova, who was a student leader during the upheaval in Bratislava in November 1989 which overthrew the Communist regime.

Slovakia is the eastern part of the confederation that constitutes the republic of Czechoslovakia, headed by President Vaclav Havel.

But Czechoslovak Jews have cause for concern about the powerful Slovak separatist movement, which includes elements nostalgic of the facist puppet state set up in Slovakia by the Nazis during the war.

That regime, headed by Father Josef Tiso, a Roman Catholic priest, deported tens of thousands of Jews to death camps.

The statement by the deputies of the National Council recalled that era.

"Today, after one year of free life, we representatives of the whole of Slovakia and its various political streams and groups feel that it is our moral duty to express publicly to our Jewish fellow citizens our deep regret for the wrongs perpetrated against them," the statement said.

It recalled that in 1942 and 1944, tens of thousands of citizens of Jewish origin were deported from Slovakia and that nearly all of them perished in concentration camps.

"Deportations in 1942 and other anti-Jewish acts were perpetrated by Slovaks," the statement continued.

"This crime against humanity burdens the conscience of all of us, though most of us belong to new generations which have no personal share in the tragic events of nearly half a century ago."

The statement noted that "many Slovaks then took part in the armed struggle against violence and did their utmost to help their Jewish co-citizens against persecution.

"On the eve of the forthcoming holidays of mutual understanding and love, we meditate about our past and inquire into our conscience, at the same time offering our hand to all nations and nationalities that lived and live with us in our common country," the statement said.

"Consider this declaration a promise that new, democratic Slovakia will never go astray from the road of respecting freedom, of tolerance, democracy, legality and interhuman love without regard to nationality, race, religion or conviction."

Deadline nears

Fellowships lure students

NEW YORK —

The deadline for applications for this year's Edgar M. Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel is Feb. 1.

The Fellowships offer an opportunity each year for 25 high school students entering their senior year in the fall to spend five weeks in Israel interacting with each other, meeting with the country's leading cultural and intellectual figures and examining issues of Jewish history and tradition as they relate to Israel and the current Jewish scene.

The teenagers will gather in New York on July 7 for a two-day seminar prior to leaving for Israel for study. They will have been selected from an expected 400 applicants. During the stay in Israel, they will visit such places as the grottoes at Rosh Hanikra, Carmiel, the Negev, a camel ranch at Mamshit, the ancient cities of Cornov and Nabatea, Masada and dozens of historic sights in major cities like Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

In addition, the Fellows will meet with some of Israel's most incisive thinkers, including writers, journalists and academicians from Israeli universities. They will participate in seminars with them as well as engage in discussions among themselves, led by a team of educators and counsellors who come from a broad range of Jewish backgrounds.

The Fellowships cover all expenses, including round-trip transportation between New York and Israel, room and board, travel in Israel and incidentals.

The Fellows are selected solely on merit, according to Rabbi Avi Weinstein, a Jewish chaplain at Harvard University and director of educational programs for the Bronfman Fellowships.

The Fellowship program was conceived by Edgar M. Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the Seagram Company Ltd., who described the goal of the program as seeking "young people with proven qualities of leadership, intellect and character, capable of playing key future roles on behalf of the Jewish community."

The purpose, he said, is to afford the young people an opportunity to develop "a new understanding of the myriad issues facing the Jewish people and the Jewish state, and a new appreciation of the importance of Jewish unity."

High school students in the United States and Canada who will be seniors in September 1991 may obtain application forms and detailed information by writing or calling the Edgar M. Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, 17 Wilbur Street, Albany, NY 12202; telephone (518) 465-6575. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1. The names of the 1991 Fellowship recipients will be announced on March 25.

IMMIGRANTS ALL

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, centre, spiritual leader of Manhattan's Park East Synagogue and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, is seen with actor Telly Savalas and TV-radio personality Casey Kasem following and Ellis Island award ceremony. The three were among the recipients of Ellis Island medals of honor. For millions of immigrants, the island was the first stop on their arrival in America. Rabbi Schneier was born in Austria; Savalas is of Greek descent and Kasem is of Lebanese extraction. The medals were awarded to distinguished representatives of the many ethnic backgrounds represented in the United States. Rabbi Schneier was the only Jewish religious leader to be honored.

German industrialists face trial for aiding Iraqi gas production

BONN (JTA) —

Executives of three German firms will go on trial in Darmstadt this month for allegedly helping Iraq produce poison gas.

The state prosecutor is expected to charge them with selling to Iraq equipment, materials, technology and know-how for chemical weapons, according to press reports.

The accused are prepared to admit to lesser charges to avoid severe penalties, informed sources said. But a prosecution spokesman said that no deals have been made.

The executives are from the Karl Kolb company and its subsidiary, Pilot Plant, both near Frankfurt, and from Water Engineering, a Hamburg-based firm.

The press reports said the charges are based on the testimony of employees of the three companies and documents seized at their offices.

The Bonn government was informed of Karl Kolb's activities in Iraq as long ago as 1981, but did nothing to stop the construction of a poison gas plant at Samarra.

It argued at the time that the accusations against Karl Kolb could not be substantiated.

That was the same argument used when charges were first made against the Imhausen chemical company, which helped Libya build a chemical weapons plant at Rabat.

The company's owner and manager, Jurgen Imhausen, was subsequently arrested and is now serving a prison sentence for violating export regulations.

B'NAI BRITH CANADA

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Embassy monitors safety

No plans to evacuate Canadians

By
RON CSILLAG

Canada's embassy in Tel Aviv has no special plans to evacuate Canadians in Israel en masse should hostilities break out in the Persian Gulf.

"We have not told Canadians to pack up and go and there are no plans to evacuate Canadians from Israel or the occupied territories" should war erupt between Iraq and Western forces, embassy spokesman George Rioux told The CJN in a telephone interview last week.

Rioux said Canadian Embassies, consulates and high commissions around the world try to monitor the whereabouts and safety of Canadian nationals should war, civil insurrection or hostilities break out.

And all Canadian missions in foreign countries have contingency plans to deal with violent situations and possible threats to Canadians.

In Israel, "we're not different," Rioux said. "We're following the situation and we're having a close look at the plan. We're doing our homework."

He said the embassy in Tel Aviv has not developed plans for a mass evacuation of the roughly 7,000 Canadians living in Israel, as was widely reported in some Canadian newspapers recently.

He said everything is running according to normal procedure.

Asked whether the embassy is in a heightened state of awareness because of impending war in the region, Rioux said, "We're always in a heightened state of awareness in Israel. It's a crazy place.

"It's hard to go to Canadians (in Israel) and say, 'Be careful, look over your shoulder.' We're talking about people who have developed a lot of defence mechanisms. They're used to waking up in the morning and hearing strange things on the radio. They know the situation is volatile."

Rioux said the embassy has a log of Canadians in Israel, almost all of whom have dual citizenship.

The only extraordinary measures the embassy has taken was to mail letters to Canadians, asking them to register their telephone numbers and names of family members, and to place ads in newspapers, asking Canadians who have not registered with the embassy to do so.

Rioux said Canada's External Affairs department issued a Dec. 21 travel advisory for the Middle East, including Israel [CJN, Jan. 3].

It suggested that Canadians living or travelling in the region be alert to the possibility of unrest, including risk to foreigners, and to "exercise appropriate caution and prudence."

It also suggested that Canadian dependants not employed in the region consider leaving in early January.

Residents and travellers to the region should also "keep in close contact" with Canadian embassies or missions, the advisory said.

Recognizes community's efforts

Shamir lauds CJC meet

JERUSALEM —

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir began the new year by telling members of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Executive Committee that "Today, the countdown begins to the Jan. 15 deadline announced by President George Bush. The Gulf Crisis overshadows all other international issues and problems."

He went on to express hope that there will be a peaceful resolution "which will not only remove the Iraqi army from Kuwait, but will put an end to the Iraqi military threat to the region, both conventional and non-conventional.

"We hope," the prime minister continued, "that the world will take into account the lessons of Saddam Hussein's behavior and will not forget the total indentification of the PLO with his aggression."

Addressing the opening dinner Jan. 1 of the CJC's first ever National Executive Committee meetings in Israel, Shamir said, "Your presence is a manifestation of unity, which is, in essence, the strength of the Jewish people. When you return to your families and your communities, please tell them that life in Israel goes on normally, and that there is no reason and no justification for our own people — for our Jewish brethren — to cancel or postpone their visits to this country."

There are 150 people here attending the CJC meetings.

In introducing the prime minister, Moshe Ronen, chairman of Congress National Executive Committee, emphasized that the demonstration makes a statement that the Jewish people are not afraid, not of Saddam Hussein nor Yasser Arafat. We will continue to come here despite war-mongers who seek to threaten and frighten us away.'

Shamir recognized the Canadian Jewish community's efforts towards the Operation Exodus campaign. "The results you have achieved are the best, pro-rata, in the world," he said. "This is a task well done and you can derive much satisfaction from it. But, we cannot rest on our laurels. This is not a time to be complacent. Whatever we have done until now is only the beginning."

The prime minister reported that in the previous seven day period, 12,000 Soviet olim arrived in Israel, the equivalent of nearly 80,000 immigrants entering Canada in one week.

He spoke of the significance of the 200,000 new immigrants who arrived in Israel in 1990, stating that every Jew in Israel understands that aliya is the raison d'etre of the State.

CJC president Les Scheininger welcomed Shamir to the opening dinner at the Laromme Hotel.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

Levy: World will demand peace talks

Mideast pressure predicted

JERUSALEM (JPFS) —

Israel must brace itself for international pressure for a comprehensive Middle East settlement after the Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister David Levy reportedly told the cabinet.

Sources quoted Levy as telling the cabinet, "Let us not be naive. While the United States and other countries oppose linkage, as they should, a psychological linkage has been created. In the post-crisis period, international elements will demand that Israel enter into a comprehensive peace process for the region and we must be prepared for this."

After the meeting Levy reiterated that Israel welcomes peace talks with any leader of an Arab state. However, proposals for an international conference are anathema to Israel, he said, because such a forum would vitiate direct talks and impose a political solution.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in a radio interview that Israel has successfully resisted international pressure in the past and suggested that it would do so again.

Shamir said in another interview, that Israel was ready to negotiate with the Arab world on its problems.

"We want direct, serious talks. Iraq as part of the Arab world can participate," he said. "I would like to receive all the leaders of the Arab world in Jerusalem if they want to talk peace between Israel and the Arab world."

EMERGENCY YOUTH APPEAL

As reported in the January 3rd edition of The Canadian Jewish News, the recession is taking its toll on the B'nai Brith Canada's Youth Program. Funding for the organization is now in jeopardy. The prospect of curtailing BBYO is a sad one to be undertaken as a last resort with the utmost regret. NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The B'nai Brith Youth Organization services 1,600 teenagers in Canada. For many, this is their only Jewish identification. We can't turn our backs on these children seeking Jewish ambience, learning leadership skills and dealing with Canadian/-Jewish concerns.

Throughout the years, B'nai Brith Canada has invested millions in its youth programs to ensure the continuity of Jewish survival. We can no longer do it alone. NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP. We are appealing to all current members of AZA, and BBG., all BBYO alumni, all parents of BBYO members, and all members of the Jewish community to help support Canada's major Jewish Youth Program. Kindly fill out the form below with your donation. Please make cheques payable to B'nai Brith Foundation - Emergency Youth Appeal.

The future starts here.
We thank you for your support of Jewish Youth in Canada.

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Marilyn Wainberg
National President

Frank Dimant
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Editorial/Letters

The Canadian Jewish news

An independent Community Newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints.

Tevet 25, 5751 — Va'era
Candlelighting: Montreal 4:12; Toronto 4:41

Arens' blunt message

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens' blunt words to visiting Canadian Jewish Congress leaders in Jerusalem last week have touched off a flurry of reassurances that relations between Canada and Israel are, in fact, just fine.

But Arens is a senior member of the Israeli government, whose tenure as Foreign Minister ended less than a year ago. To characterize him as "out of touch with our bilateral relations," as one official in Canada's External Affairs department has done, is wishful thinking.

Arens' message must be heard in the context of where it was delivered: in Jerusalem, not in the relative comfort of Ottawa or Toronto or Montreal.

Israelis are standing up, with courage and determination, to pressures Canadians cannot even imagine. Threatened with attack in a war not of their making, they send their sons and daughters to the army and joke about using gas masks as Purim costumes. Seeking to control an uprising whose root causes lie, not in Israeli policy, but in the century-old hostility of their neighbors and successive world powers, they remain committed to finding a peace that does not jeopardize their security and freely debate just what that means. And in the midst of crisis, they open their doors to hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews fleeing a country in chaos.

And what has Canada's response been? To its credit, Canada has participated, in keeping with its capabilities, in the multinational force opposing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. But in its stance on Israeli-Palestinian issues, Canada has hardly been even-handed, as evidenced by its voting record during its recently-concluded two-year membership on the United Nations' Security Council.

In this context, Arens' impatience with the lack of any humanitarian aid from Canada in the enormous effort to absorb the expected millions of Soviet Jews is understandable. The complete lack of comprehension of just what is involved was demonstrated by the flippant comment of the Canadian Embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv: "The Canadian Jewish community has done a great deal to help Israel."

Yes, we have. And yes, we will continue to do so. But the message Canadian Jews need to give to their government is that the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel is an issue that transcends private charity and international politics. It is a mass migration of refugees that deserves government-to-government recognition.

Humanitarian aid to Israel would in no way compromise Canada's right to disagree with Israeli policies on peace negotiations or its response to the intifada. It would, however, demonstrate that Canada understands the pressures that Israel is under, and is committed to helping her to survive them.

Poisoned environment

The hearing on the complaint against the discriminatory atmosphere prevailing in the Moncton, N.B. District 15 School Board has revealed a shocking educational environment.

Malcolm Ross, who has publicly proclaimed his belief in the existence of an international Jewish conspiracy to destroy western Christian civilization and who has published books to advance this classic and lunatic anti-Semitic lie, teaches in a District 15 school. In another school in that same district, a young Jewish girl, Yona Attis, has been subjected to unconscionable verbal and written abuse.

For a significant length of time, Attis, now in Grade 9, was victimized by anti-Jewish racial slurs (Hitler should have killed you all), provocations (the student council president wore a T-shirt with a swastika on it) and death threats (Die Jews). Even though, during one four-month period, she complained to her teacher, vice-principal or principal every time an incident took place, no effective action was taken to stop this harassment.

The abuse suffered by Attis did not cease with her school experience. At the hearing, a lawyer for Ross accused her of exaggerating and fabricating some of her testimony. He even suggested that some boys may have pestered Yona because of her looks. "Don't you think boys tease a good-looking girl more?" he asked. "I don't think they call them 'f---ing Jew'," was her reply.

Oddly enough Yona's account of her persecution was confirmed by the lawyer for the school board, who argued that the boys who had abused her were victims themselves, from deprived backgrounds — as if this justified their attack on her.

No child in a Canadian school should ever have to put up with such odious treatment. The New Brunswick human rights commission hearing this case has a rare opportunity to tell trustees, staff and students that the public school system must be a congenial place for children of all races and religions and that those who promote hate have no place within it.

TO THE EDITOR:

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.

* * *

DISMAYED BY MILKEN

We are writing to express our dismay over the article entitled, Jailed Junk-bond Wizard also Judged by Good Deeds (CJN, Dec. 13).

We fail to appreciate how this article extolling the charitable gifts made by Mr. Michael Milken can serve any purpose other than to applaud the use of money obtained fraudulently as a source of charitable funds.

We are shocked that you permit the publication of this article that quotes Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin describing Michael and Lowell Milken as ". . . good Jewish boys." In effect you are condoning the illegal activities of Michael Milken and thereby suggesting that dishonesty is forgiven when the money is given to Jewish charity.

This does little to further the cause of moral and ethical issues, so badly needed at these times.

Irving and Florence Koven
Toronto

* * *

WHAT'S BUGGING J.B.?

There are times when it seems that J. B. Salsberg writes his column with the express intention of antagonizing the Orthodox community. His article of Dec. 6 — Balkanizing Bathurst Street — was certainly no exception.

There is indeed a wonderful flavor to Bathurst Street on Friday afternoon; a mix of friendly camaraderie and a hectic preparation for Shabbos. Why it would evoke negative feelings in a Jewish soul is hard to understand.

As far as involvement in major organizations: we are all familiar with the need for each person to serve G-d and the community in the way that is best in sync with one's personality. That's why, to name just a few, Charlie Diamond, Julia Koschitzky, Les Scheninger and Kurt Rothschild — Orthodox all — have chosen to be major leaders in our community.

If others choose to be financial supporters of millions of dollars without seeking leadership positions, in keeping with their own personalities, is that really reason to criticize? Are they as individuals not entitled to the same choice as others?

If J.B. is really worried about the Orthodox "turning their backs on the community," just stand outside the door of any well-to-do businessman on any given evening and count the number of people coming for and receiving assistance. Or inquire how many non-Orthodox people are visited by Orthodox women through the Bikur Cholim Organization.

It's pretty evident that these are not really the issues. These kind of random pot shots at the Orthodox community should not be tolerated by a newspaper that is committed to unity and tolerance: So the question that remains is, what's **really** bugging J.B., towards the entire Jewish community?

Nancy Friedberg
Toronto

* * *

TEST COUPLES FOR TAY-SACHS

Four months into my pregnancy, I learned that I was a Tay-Sachs carrier. For the next four days, my husband and I walked on a tight rope while we waited for my husband's test results. This had come as a complete surprise to me because no one in my family remembered any history of Tay-Sachs. Thankfully, my husband's results were negative.

During those four days, I learned everything I could about Tay-Sachs. This disease is caused by the absence of an important enzyme responsible for the disposal of cell waste materials, in particular fat molecules. When this enzyme is not present, the fat molecules build up, interfering with the cell's functions, particularly in the brain.

The baby is born appearing healthy. After four to eight months, the baby may experience an abnormal sensitivity to sound. Then the baby loses the ability to crawl or turn over. A deterioration occurs in the infant's mental and physical facilities leading to blindness, convulsions, seizures and death between the ages of three and five.

Among Ashkenazim, one person in 30 is a carrier. Compare this to one in 1,000 in the general population. That means, theoretically, one child in every Jewish Day School classroom could be a carrier.

The time to be tested is not part way through pregnancy. Would it not be better if rabbis interviewing couples soon to be married, could suggest they be tested then? At that point, the knowledge of being a carrier is a fact of life rather than a matter of life and death. We are lucky to have the medical technology available in order to avoid this horror. Let's use it.

Carla J. Silver
Toronto

* * *

PRAY FOR BREAKTHROUGH

We have just returned from visiting Israel as a group of Christians and Jews who have known each other for many years through various local dialogue activities and as members of the national body known as the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation. We wished to meet groups in Israel that labor in similar areas, realizing that the difficulties there are unique and enormous.

Given the events of recent months and weeks — the intifada and the Gulf crisis looming in the background — we knew before going the possible strains upon inter-group relations we would find.

Our expectations were proven to be realistic. Many voices were heard which expressed the great difficulties, sufferings, anxieties and hopes of the moment. Those active for peace and understanding were confused. They were seeking any directions out of the current impasse.

We encountered many men and women of a variety of backgrounds — theologians, pastors and rabbis, Israelis and Palestinians; government officials and ordinary citizens — who have not given up hope, who believe that Arabs and Jews must and will find a way to live together in the land of Israel, a land holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Despite profound sadness and even pessimism, they remarkably continue their efforts, working and praying for a breakthrough, some dramatic turn of events that will begin to reverse the current direction and move towards peaceful co-existence of the two peoples.

We express our solidarity with them and will pray for them and all the peoples of the area as we return home. We hope as well that through our efforts we can continue to make a contribution towards improved interfaith relations in Canada.

Dr. Heather Johnston
Canadian Council of Churches
Toronto
Dr. Donna Geernaert
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Ottawa
Rabbi Howard Joseph
Canadian Jewish Congress
Montreal

* * *

REVERSE THE REWARD

Voices have been raised in the international arena strongly suggesting that after the solution of the Gulf crisis, the Arabs should be rewarded with the solution of "The Palestinian problem" for their having joined the Americans in the defence of their lands and fortunes.

Judging from the abominable UN Security Council's resolution condemning Israelis for their justified action on the Temple Mount and the prevailing anti-Israel skewed atmosphere in the UN, one may logically surmise that this reward will consist in trying to submit Israel to Arabs' demands.

Considering, however, the circumstances surrounding the Gulf crisis, and if one conjures Saddam flaunting the atomic bomb, any decent and sincere person must admit that, on the contrary, the foremost party deserving the reward should be the Israelis for their destruction of the Iraqi atomic reactor.

Isaac Josy
Toronto

Will the real Hank Greenberg please stand up?
Our apologies to Hank Greenberg (right) of Toronto whose picture we ran in error Dec 20. as that of baseball's Hall of Famer.

name game

There is a story in almost every Jewish surname and Toronto lawyer FRED M. CATZMAN has been researching their origins over the past few years. Mr. Catzman reports on his research in The CJN.

* * *

GOLDSMITH - SCHMUCKLER

Jews acquired considerable skill in the jewellery trade.

Goldman and Goldschmiedt — were goldsmiths.

Silber and Silberschmiedt — were silversmiths.

Goldscheider — a refiner of gold.

Goldzieher — was a drawer of gold wire.

Goldstuck and Goldmintz — were gold coins.

Zlotnik — is the Polish word for goldsmith.

Schmuckler — is a jeweller.

Opinion

Middle, upper classes assume leadership roles

The social and cultural revolution of Jewish America

By
J. B. SALSBERG

Last week, my dear readers, I dealt with my recent visit to New York City and the memories that that visit rekindled of my first visit to that massive U.S. "melting pot" of more than half a century ago.

J.B. Salsberg

I realized that the economic and social changes that American Jews experienced during the past 60 or so years and the revolutionary global transformations during that period produced an entirely different Jewish America.

First and foremost American Jewry outlived the social dynamism that powered its earlier ideological and cultural formations. The various branches of the U.S. garment industries that nurtured the successive waves of Jewish immigrants are no longer the major economic providers of American Jewry. The dramatic "class battles" between Jewish employers and Jewish wage earners of half a century ago are now part of U.S. Jewish history. So is the feisty American Jewish Labor leadership; as President Franklin D. Roosevelt used to urge his aides, "Clear it with Sydney;" meaning clear it with Sydney Hillman, the head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the union of predominantly Jewish men's clothing workers.

All that is history.

Jewish America now is very much alive and more influential than ever. But it is the Jewish intellectuals and the Jewish middle and upper classes that exercise all meaningful leadership powers. Jewish Orthodoxy in North America is experiencing a miraculous rebirth, largely through the growth of Chassidism, mainly in its Lubavitch sector.

As for Yiddish and what used to be called "the Kingdom of Yiddish culture," namely, the pre-Second World War Polish and Lithuanian Jewish communities, they went up in the flames of the Hitler war. But despite all that, Yiddish at this time is not only a rich heritage but also an important element in the current Jewish struggle for continuity in the Diaspora. Only a few years ago the renowned Yiddish creative writer, Isaac Bashevis Singer, won the Nobel Prize for literature. I believe also that Yiddish will be a major instrument in the re-establishment of an organized, functioning Jewish community in the Soviet Union, even though a large number of Soviet Jews will migrate to Israel.

Whatever the future may hold for Yiddish, that language, shaped with love and devotion by an almost one-thousand-year effort of our forefathers, it is still a global language of Jewry today. The Yiddish press, though reduced in numbers and circulation, still functions around the world. Yiddish is still the language that helps travelling Jews to link with Jewish communities worldwide, including, of course, Israel, where Yiddish has regained legitimacy.

Readers may wonder what circumstance brought me to this area of Jewish concerns? Oh, just a re-visit to New York, the largest Jewish community in the world. It was a visit that evoked memories, sentiments and awareness of the Jewish experience for more than half a century.

The cheerful ingredient in those recollections was, of course, the rebirth of Jewish statehood in the ancient homeland and its growth since that birth.

Readers will pardon me, I hope, if I state that in my view Jewish continuity is unthinkable without the continuity of the State of Israel. Every threat to Israel is, in my view, a threat to Jewish continuity. In the real world of today that conclusion is inescapable. With Israel we are a world community. Without it we would, at best, become a religious entity in a secular world.

"Nu," I can hear my uncle Eliezer say, "Nu, enough already. Enough of fear and pessimism."

I like to please my good uncle and will, therefore, say to him; "OK, OK, I'll stop." But can I help it if such thoughts do emerge to trouble me? They do, they do. . . .

I suppose that all aging Jews are engaged in such troubling and emotional exercises.

And so, as they used to say: *Nisht Gedayget!* (not to worry).

Cheer up!

Support may reassert itself during real crisis

U.S. media go to extremes in condemning Israel

By
RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

When a few weeks ago, tragedy struck a ferry which took American sailors back to the USS Saratoga, and after Israeli patrol boats, helicopters and other rescue vehicles had been put freely at the disposal of the Americans, the U.S. ambassador to Israel said, "At a time like this, we really find out who our friends are."

Rabbi Plaut

This remark, which was carried on national television in the States, stood in marked contrast to the reaction which the U.S. media had to the so-called Temple Mount killings. At that time, Palestinians on the Temple Mount had been killed by Israeli riot police, which resulted in an immediate condemnation of Israel by the United Nations, in an internal Israeli investigation, and in the sending of a UN emissary.

A press survey composed by the Anti-Defamation League makes it abundantly clear that when Israel appears or is subject to criticism, that criticism will take extraordinary forms. With very few exceptions which will be noted below, American newspapers from east to west and north to south not only condemned Israel, but did so in extreme and often highly offensive tones. Only seven of the editorials surveyed supported Israel's position on rejecting the UN inquiry and condemned the United Nations scrutiny.

I will not bore you with quotations from editorials, which were not altogether different from those appearing in Canada. Rather, I want to describe a few of the editorial cartoons which put the events into a very particular focus. Of course, in doing so, one has to remember that cartoons by their very nature do exaggerate, but in that very exaggeration, they often show the real intent of both the artist and the paper that will print it.

In the Denver Post, Mike Keefe shows an Israeli soldier firing away at unarmed people. Uncle Sam asks, "Rubber bullets, I hope," whereupon the Israeli responds, "Rubber bullets are for wimps."

In a cartoon published both in the New York Times and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Tim Menees shows a morgue centred by an autopsy table. The cartoon is captioned "West Bank bargaining table."

Mike Ramirez in the Memphis Commercial Appeal shows an Israeli soldier in riot gear holding a smoking automatic rifle. His face mirrors a ghastly look of death and he declares, "Sticks and stones may break my bones — but then again they can't be fired at 30 rounds per minute."

Signe Wilkinson in the Philadelphia Daily News shows an Israeli soldier pointing his rifle at a Palestinian Arab whose hands — one of which holds a rock — are raised in surrender. Says the Israeli soldier, "Because our God told us it was ours before your God told you it was yours, that's why."

Only three cartoons in the survey were found somewhat or very sympathetic to Israel.

Mike Smith of the Las Vegas Sun showed Palestinian Arab terrorists raining rocks down upon a group of Jews peacefully praying at the Western Wall. The cartoon was titled "Prey."

The survey emphasizes the evident erosion of public support for Israel. I still believe, however, that underlying it all, such support will reassert itself when a real crisis will come about and Israel will be seen to stand with the United States. How this same scenario will play in Canada is another matter, one which is currently hard to assess.

Need to take time off from fighting injustice

World would be a dull place without all the "isms"

By
ELAINE KAHN

Every month or so, a friend calls with "something you should write about in the CJN." Without exception, she is angry about something and, almost without exception, I share her anger. The world swarms with injustice and we both are card-carrying members of the liberal social activist guild, forever trying to increase the fine tuning of our beings to catch even the most delicate threads of prejudice, inequity and hatred everywhere.

Elaine Kahn

Like Batman, but in 3-D.

The difference between us is that sometimes I take a day off. I once knew an observant Jew who, monthly, gave himself a "treif" day. I'm less horrified by it now than I was then.

For example, I want my kids to read *Little Women*, whether or not it provides non-sexist role models.

And the term "JAP" (although sexist, anti-Semitic, full of Jewish self-hatred and a probable boon to intermarriage) is often too good a shortcut for me to drop when describing a kind of person who does exist, as much as I wish she didn't.

And a black acquaintance is angry that I hang a Confederate flag in my office. It was the "wrapping paper" my husband used when he gave me my *Gone With the Wind* video years ago. I keep it as a memento of his rare inventiveness in gift-giving. It stays.

So do all three copies of the book, even if I have read that Rhett sweeping Scarlett up the stairs and into bed is not passion, despite the look on her face the next morning, but marital rape.

And I'm keeping my fur coat — whether I wear it or not.

I'd never ever thought about owning a fur coat, so just said "yes" when my parents offered to buy me one several years ago. It never occurred to me I'd end up being ashamed to wear it around half my friends, because they're into animal rights, or with the other half too, because neither they nor their parents can afford to buy them one, which makes me look elitist.

If I didn't have Jewish community meetings to go to, I'd have no place to wear it at all.

(Yes, yes, I know we have suddenly discovered that almost 20 per cent of the Jews here are poor — but they aren't invited to Jewish community meetings).

Liberal-minded vigilance can even come back to haunt you. We've raised our daughters to believe that men and women can and should accomplish equally, pregnancy still excepted. They recently discovered that I depend on my husband to do our banking (though I'm a full partner in financial planning) and he depends on me to sew buttons on his shirts (though he can work the actual buttons by himself). They gave us hell.

They also both think that federal justice minister Kim Campbell was sexist when she called MP Nelson Riis a "cute, blond-haired guy."

May my daughters and the gods of social activism forgive me, but I thought she was just being funny.

And I'm as positive that Campbell's remark did not have some sinister undertone, meant to undermine Riis' brains or ability, as I am that John Crosbie was in fact attacking those very things in Sheila Copps when he called her "baby." The playing field is not yet equal.

Jews should understand uneven playing fields. Recently, a man with Canadian and Polish citizenship ran for the presidency of Poland. Thousands of Canadian Poles voted in the election. The media reports revealed utter fascination with a quirky story.

Would a run for president of Israel by someone with dual Canadian and Israeli citizenship also be reported with such bengin bemusement? Does Kim Campbell luck out once with a witty remark?

Look — a world robbed of healthy humorous banter between the sexes is dull and repressed. And not even safer or more just.

Most of us today profess to be on our guard against sexism, ageism, racism, classism (except in the Jewish community) and democratic socialism (except in Ontario). Why then do we eat up the details of the Marc Lepine killings, the blacks against blacks massacres in South Africa, revelations of criminal activities in our burgeoning Chinese Canadian community?

Because "I told you so" is the first phrase most of us learn, after "nanny" and "pishie."

Some Jews fight to level the playing grounds. And most Jews value context: Jewish jokes are okay if told by Jews, but not by others.

This probably explains why the organized Jewish community has been so publicly complacent about the chairman of the Ontario Science Centre's role in the centre's recent apparent compliance with the Arab boycott: the chairman is a Jew.

So, by the way, is the man who's written the upcoming British sitcom, *Heil Honey, I'm Home*, which places Hitler and Eva Braun in a Jewish neighborhood of Hollywood in the 1960s.

I too appreciate context, so would, naturally, never think of buying a sign reading "Caution: Too Much Sex Weakens the Eyes" for a blind person. But now that I know a blind friend of mine bought such a sign for himself, I'll keep my eyes open.

Oops!

Guess it's back to the ramparts. . . .

Next week:
An astonishing deception is probed by a Jewish historian

Features

Attracts wide range of scholars

U of T hosts unique Soviet Jewry conference

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Some of the participants at a recent conference on Soviet Jewry held at the University of Toronto. From left are Mark Kupovetsky, Robert Johnson, Henry Weinberg, Sergey Rapaport, Yuli Shternberg and Rudolf Mirsky. [Alron photo]

TORONTO —

It wouldn't have been possible just a few short years ago, when the Jewish community in the Soviet Union was repressed. But as a result of the historic reforms undertaken by President Mikhail Gorbachev, a unique conference on Soviet Jewry took place here late last year on the sixth and seventh days of Chanuka.

The First Canada-U.S.S.R. Academic Dialogue on Jewish Themes was an opportunity for Soviet scholars "to bring the new realities of the Soviet Union" to a Western audience, according to one of the chairmen, Prof. Abraham Rotstein of the University of Toronto.

Sponsored by the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto and the Soviet Sociological Association of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the conference gave specialists from the Soviet Union, Canada and the United States a forum to expound their views on topics ranging from demography to anti-Semitism.

Virtually all the Soviet scholars were Jews, and most were connected with the newly-formed Jewish Research Centre, which has branches in several Soviet cities and operates under the auspices of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Henry Weinberg, a professor of French at the University of Toronto and the initiator and chief organizer of the conference, described the establishment of the Jewish Research Centre as a significant event.

"For the first time in 70 years, a group of Soviet academics of high rank have organized a centre for Jewish research. It is an example of the remarkable Jewish capacity for regeneration."

Zvi Gitelman of the University of Michigan was just as emphatic: "That Soviet scholars can do such work on Jewish subjects speaks volumes."

Mark Kupovetsky of the Jewish Research Centre in Moscow disclosed that branches are being set up all over the Soviet Union. "The problem," he observed, "is finding qualified researchers." Until quite recently, Jewish studies in the Soviet Union were discouraged by the authorities.

But obstacles, in the form of financial and bureaucratic problems, still remain, in the view of Vladimir Shapiro, head of the Jewish Research Centre in Moscow.

Yakov Bassin, a representative of the Minsk branch, said that while Jewish communal life throughout the Soviet Union is growing, emigration in on the increase. According to Bassin, 1.2 million Jews have invitations from relatives abroad to leave and another 700,000 Jews are in the process of arranging their departure.

Rudolf Mirsky of the Lvov Polytechnical Institute, who studies the aliya of Jews to Israel, said he has found no "strategic plans" on the part of the government to "chase" Jews out of the Soviet Union.

Alexander Benifand, a researcher from Bashkiria, reported that increasing numbers of Jews who placed their hopes in glasnost and perestroika are disenchanted. He said that Jews who have been estranged from their Jewishness are returning to their roots, including "people in high places."

Speaking of Jews in Galicia, Mirsky and Yuli Shterenberg of the Jewish Research Centre in Lvov cited examples of Jewish cultural revival in that area of the Soviet Union.

The synagogue in Lvov is functioning once again; a Sholem Aleichem Society has been created; Yiddish and Hebrew are taught on a regular basis; a Betar youth group and a Maccabi sports organization have emerged; a Jewish library, dance group and theatre are now operating.

Sergey Rapaport of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in Vilnius said that former Jewish Communists and "active anti-Zionists" have returned to the fold and joined the "loud struggle for Jewish rights and values, and now courageously (immigrate) to Israel."

Shapiro said that there has been a tremendous proliferation of Jewish organizations of late, all of which contribute to the maintenance of Jewish life.

Intermarriage is high in the Soviet Union. Kupovetsky said that, in 1988, 58 per cent of Jewish men and 48 per cent of Jewish women were wed to non-Jews.

Commenting on Jews who exhibit no interest in emigrating, Shapiro ascribed their position to nostalgia toward their motherland and concern about their chances of adapting themselves to a new society.

Explaining why Jews are leaving the Soviet Union, Gitelman cited several factors — apprehension that the doors will be sealed again; pessimism that Gorbachev's reforms will not succeed; pull of family and friends already in the West; fear of chaos and anti-Semitism as the social system breaks down; fear of being left behind.

Paradoxically, while Jews enjoy greater freedom today, they perceive themselves to be in far more danger. Jews, he added, are disappointed with Gorbachev's response to anti-Semitism, which, he pointed out, is "more open, more spontaneous" because it is not being restrained by the government.

Current anti-Semitic themes, Gitelman stated, embrace accusations that Jews are disloyal, that they are privileged and that they are pro-Western. However, Soviet surveys indicate that extreme nationalists, among whom are anti-Semites, fare badly in elections.

Support for Pamyat — the rabidly anti-Jewish organization — runs from three per cent to five per cent in the Russian federation, Shapiro said. But he warned that in some regions, which he did not identify, Pamyat may be able to provoke physical violence against Jews.

One of the most chilling reports on anti-Semitism was read by Yakov Kostuykovky of the April Writers Association, a liberal faction of the Russian Writers Association.

He spoke of the emergence of overtly anti-Semitic periodicals, which claim that Alexander Yakovlev, Gorbachev's advisor and former ambassador to Canada, and Boris Yeltsin, leader of the Russian republic, are in fact Jewish.

Such publications, Kostuykovky said, portray Jews as the cause of the Soviet Union's current economic and political troubles and claim that a "world Zionist conspiracy" is afoot to control the world by the year 2,000.

In Bassin's judgment, anti-Semitism is a painful legacy of Stalinism. Joseph Stalin, he said, tried to squelch Jewish culture and excluded or limited Jews from many professions.

Delivering a paper on Anti-Jewish Propaganda in Byelorussian Mass Media, Bassin charged that "anti-Jewish feelings are not only openly encouraged by non-formal chauvinistic groups and even by members of scientific and artistic elites, but also by Communist party officials..."

Bassin claimed that the number of "openly chauvinistic newspapers and magazines is increasing, and that "the main generator of anti-Semitic ideas and feelings in Byelorussia during the last 10 or 15 years has been a group of scientists from the Philosophy and Law Institute" in the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences.

Maurice Friedberg of the University of Illinois cited instances of anti-Semitic references in the writings of contemporary Russian authors who consider themselves "spiritual heirs, in many respects, of 19th century Slavophiles."

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in excerpts of the *Gulag Archipelago* published in the literary journal Novy Mir, "gave long lists of secret policemen with recognizably Jewish names who ran for Stalin the empire of concentration camps."

Yuri Luryi of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto analyzed Soviet anti-hate legislation. He said that the only state edict referring directly to anti-Semitism was promulgated in 1918. Luryi criticized Gorbachev for his lukewarm response to anti-Semitism.

Aurel Braun of the University of Toronto spoke of the relationship between instabilty and anti-Semitism.

"In a period of chaos where there is a crisis of legitimacy, minorities would suffer more — and no minority in the Soviet Union is likely to be in greater danger than Soviet Jews...

"Historically, periods of chaos have proven to be devastating for Soviet Jews, and the current rapid rise of anti-Semitism and the inability or unwillingness of the central government to deal with it has made the position of this minority extremely difficult."

Sounding another sombre note, Braun concluded:

"For Soviet Jews to count on the victory of liberalism in the current circumstances represents a considerable gamble. Should the forces of repression prevail... Jews as an extremely vulnerable minority would likely suffer terribly."

Emigration, he said, may be the only "prudent course" for Soviet Jews.

Yakov Rabkin of the University of Montreal argued that Diaspora leaders have acquiesced to Israel's demands to channel Soviet immigrants to Israel rather than to North America, their destination of choice. "This," he said, "emphasizes the old disparity brtween the rhetoric of Western Zionists and their consistent failure to move to Israel." Rabkin, a Soviet Jew himself, asked how long this "hypocrisy" would remain as the cornerstone of Israel-Diaspora relations.

As well, Rabkin declared that Israel had been "created by a militant minority in the name of the entire Jewish people," and that Israel now "appears to endanger rather than enhance the safety of the Jews, both within and without its borders."

Taking issue with the last part of Rabkin's analysis, Rabbi Reuben Poupko of Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation in Montreal and vice-chairman of Canadian Jewish Congress' executive in Quebec, called his comments scurrilous.

Frederick Krantz of Concordia University rebuked Rabkin for voicing "anti-Semitic notions" and castigated him for suggesting that Soviet Jews were being sent to Israel to die. Furthermore, Krantz said, Rabkin's paper was unscholarly and evoked shades of Soviet anti-Zionism.

In an interview with The Canadian Jewish News, Rabkin said that he had presented the same paper in Hebrew in 1989 at Bar-Ilan University in Israel without arousing any commotion.

* * *

As the conference ended, Weinberg announced that the Canada-U.S.S.R. Academic Dialogue on Jewish Themes would convene next December in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Sociological Association.

Weinberg said that assistance for the Toronto conference was provided by Canada's Department of External Affairs, the Simon Wiesenthal Foundation, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the University of Toronto.

New Russian immigrants head for busy mohel

By
NECHEMIA MEYERS

REHOVOT —

Last month Dr. Cyril Fine circumcised 120 Russian immigrants. This month he will probably circumcise even more.

For many years Fine — a former South African who has been living here for the last 18 years —was the only practicing Israeli physician who also served as a mohel. As such, he was always called in when it was necessary to perform circumcisions on adult immigrants from the Soviet Union, where such operations were illegal. But when the trickle of newcomers became a flood, the Ministry of Religious Affairs organized a crash course in ritual circumcision for 20 other observant doctors, who now are also qualified to serve as mohelim.

For Russian immigrants, the path towards circumcision typically begins in an ulpan classroom when a representative of the local rabbinate,usually accompanied by a Russian-speaking volunteer, comes in to announce that men who have not been circumcised can have a brit mila without cost. No pressure is applied, nor is any required, despite the fact that very few Soviet newcomers are observant Jews. They rush forward to register for the operation because, as many of them told me, it will help them "become part of the country."

But before a date is set, one matter remains to be settled, the Jewishness of the applicants. Unless the rabbinate is convinced that the men in question are Jewish — hardly to be taken for granted considering the 50 per cent intermarriage rate among Russian Jews — it will not sanction a ritual circumcision.

Considering the numbers involved, a "production line" is required and, indeed, on the day I watched Dr. Fine in action at a small suburban hospital on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, he operated on no less than 15 boys and men, ranging in age from five to 45. Since all were under full anesthesia (after receiving an injection in the groin), they obviously were unaware of what was happening. Nevertheless, before carefully removing a foreskin, Dr. Fine would always recite the traditional blessing.

After the patients had spent a couple of hours in the recovery room, during which time Dr. Fine inspected his handiwork to make sure there were no problems, they, their families and some volunteers from the Emunah Organization of Orthodox Women came together in a small, steamy hospital annex for a modest celebration and a final round of ceremonies.

First of all, the recently circumcised boys and men were supplied by a representative of the rabbinate with skullcaps and Hebrew-Russian prayerbooks, both as obviously new to them as the brit mila. Then Dr. Fine, his green operating theatre gown removed, came striding in and greeted everyone in his booming, cheerleader voice. It is unlikely that many people in the room knew enough Hebrew to understand what Fine was saying when he explained the significance of the Covenant of Abraham, yet they could not but sense his surging, infectious enthusiasm.

Then he asked everyone to repeat after him the traditional "Shma" and "Sheheyanu" prayers, which they did at the top of their voices. Finally, amidst a burst of stormy clapping, Dr. Fine read out the names of the newly circumcised, many of whom took the occasion to adopt Hebrew ones.

The proceedings ended with a "pri hagefen" blessing recited over paper cups filled with grape juice that had been supplied by the lady volunteers. They also handed out little plastic bags of candy to the men and boys who had been operated upon.

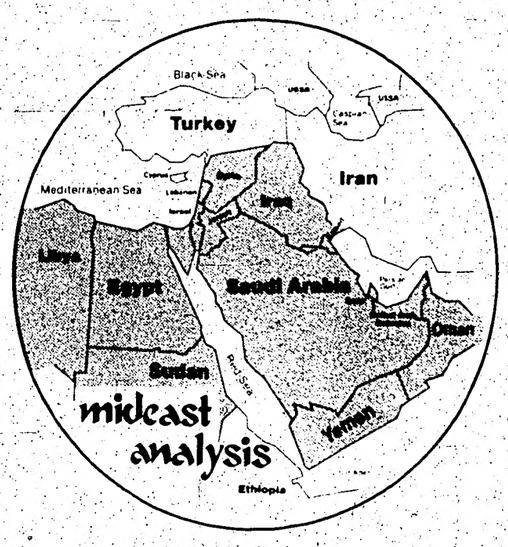
Dr. Fine then rushed back to his regular clinic, richer spiritually but not financially. These mass circumcisions are done on the cheap, with the Ministry of Religious Affairs allocating only $250 per brit mila, of which the mohel-physicians pocket about $25. It remains to be seen, however, whether they will continue to accept this pennypinching arrangement at a time when the demand for their services is bound to increase.

"It would be hard to overestimate the psychological significance of these ritual circumcisions," says Dr. Fine. In his view, they reflect the difference between the absorption of Russian Jews in America and here. "There," he points out, "their identity as Jews is of scant significance in what is, after all, a large heterogeneous society; here, in the shtetl that is Israel, it is more significant than anything else."

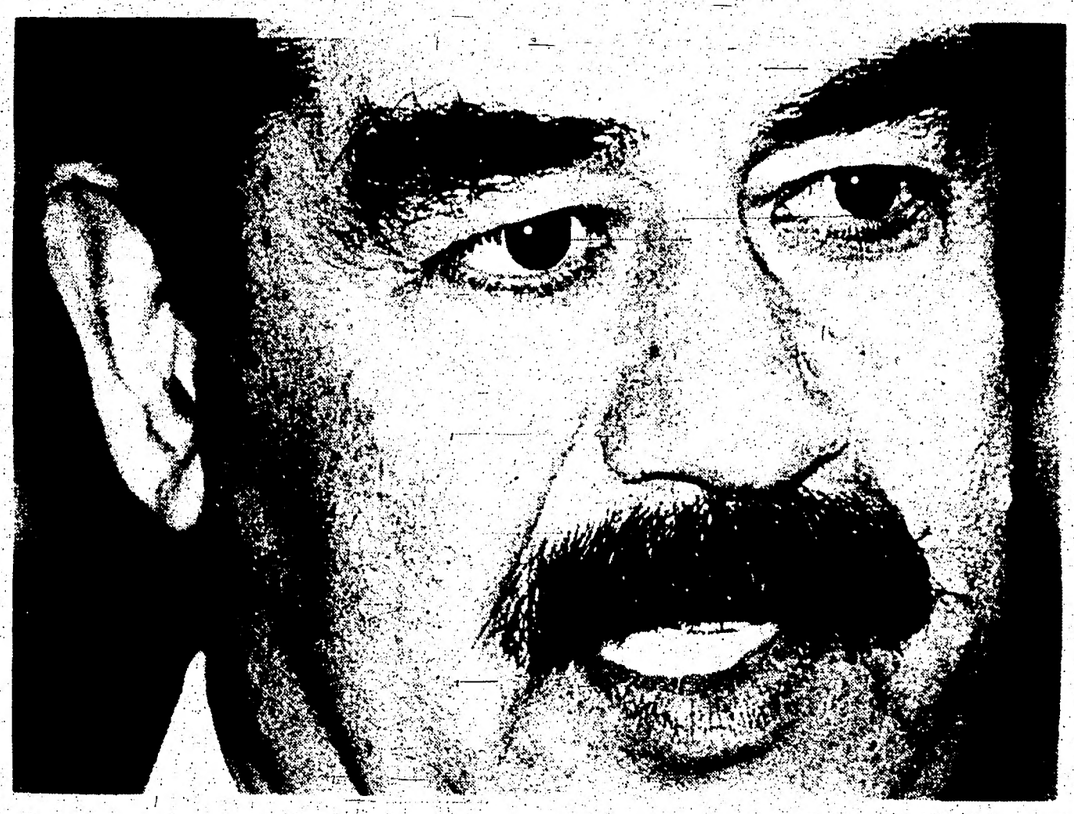
Backgrounder

Saddam Hussein rules with an iron hand

Fear is the "cement" that holds Iraq together



By
SHELDON KIRSHNER



Saddam Hussein

Long before the Gulf crisis and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War left their indelible marks on our consciousness, observers of the Arab political scene were intrigued by Iraq and its supreme leader, Saddam Hussein.

Iraq, with its turbulent history and its pretensions to regional hegemony, has always fascinated scholars. Saddam Hussein, who rose from humble obscurity to world prominence, has irretrievably etched his name into the annals of Middle East politics.

Three new books shed light on Iraq and Saddam — *Republic of Fear* (Pantheon, $12.95) by Samir al-Khalil, *Human Rights in Iraq* (Yale University Press, $19.95 U.S.) by Middle East Watch and *Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf* (Times Books/Random House, $6.95) by Judith Miller and Laurie Mylroie.

All three, especially the first two, focus on internal developments, and demonstrate the extent to which totalitarianism has gripped Iraq.

Iraq, where the first coup d'etat in the Arab world took place in 1936, has more often than not been ruled by the military since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958.

Chaotic conditions prevailed in Iraq between 1958 and 1966, when the country was convulsed by more than 10 coups and attempted coups, two armed rebellions and a civil war pitting the central government against the Kurds.

The Ba'ath party wrested control of Iraq in two coups in 1968, bringing to the fore Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr, an army general, and his ambitious protege, Saddam Hussein, who would be the vice-president of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council until he replaced his mentor in the summer of 1979.

Saddam, Miller and Mylroie write, built his base in the Ba'ath party through the intelligence apparatus. Real or imagined foes and potential rivals were ruthlessly eliminated. The first well-known victim was a former foreign minister and ex-ambassador to the United States, whose body was discovered in a ditch outside Baghdad. Many more members of the Iraqi elite out of favor with the regime were dispatched summarily, both in the immediate aftermath of the 1968 coups and during Saddam's rise to omnipotence nine years later.

Yet cold-blooded murder was not the only method Saddam and company employed against opponents. Some were retired and shunted aside, their heretofore meteoric careers allowed to wither. Still others were exiled. Middle East Watch estimates that well over one million Iraqis — particularly persons of Iranian descent and Shi'ite Moslems — have been deported since 1968.

The truncated Jewish community also has been dealt with harshly. Some 15 Jews were hanged as "spies" in 1969 and 1970, and further arrests followed. In 1972, 20 Jews were murdered and 16 disappeared, according to Middle East Watch. It adds that while Jews are no longer regularly subject to arrest, torture and killing, they are "barely tolerated."

Saddam has ruled Iraq with an iron hand — a fact that is credibly documented in the books under review.

Iraq, Miller and Mylroie say, is run as "a private preserve of Saddam and his inner clique," with Saddam distributing jobs and wealth as he sees fit.

Fear, observes al-Khalil, is the "cement" that holds together Saddam's brutal regime. All organizations and associations not directly controlled by the Ba'ath have been eradicated. A range of "cruel institutional practices" — confessional rituals, public hangings, corpse displays and torture — are designed to breed and sustain widespread fear, al-Khalil notes.

According to Miller and Mylroie, Saddam's use of terror as "a routine instrument of state policy" is intended to destroy "the fabric of civil society" and to throttle dissent. Saddam promotes a climate of suspicion to keep opponents off-balance.

There have been four recorded attempts on his life, in 1982, 1984, 1985 and 1987. In 1982, after his motorcade was attacked in a remote village, an enraged Saddam bulldozed the village, wiping it off the map.

Although Saddam has spoken of plans to "reform" the system, little has come of these statements. Iraqis continue to be denied freedom of expression and association, and are subjected to arbitary arrest and imprisonment, deportation, torture, disappearance and summary execution. The Kurdish minority, which has been gassed, has borne the brunt of Saddam's dictatorship.

Through a network of informers and secret police, Middle East Watch says, the Iraqi government has succeeded in denying the people even the right of free expression in the privacy of their homes. Free public discussion of political issues has been effectively banned for the past 22 years. Those who conform can expect to be left alone, or rewarded.

Needless to say, the mass media is a mouthpiece of the regime, being an instrument for propagating Ba'ath ideology (which, among other things, proclaims the virtues of Arab unity and socialism).

One of the prime functions of Iraqi newspapers, magazines and radio and television stations is to glorify Saddam, who does enjoy a degree of popularity in certain circles. His photograph appears on the front page of dailies regardless of whether there is a matching story. On radio, in a typical political broadcast, his name is often mentioned 30 to 50 times, says al-Khalil. The evening TV news begins with a syrupy, obsequious ode to Saddam, Middle East Watch comments.

The cult of the personality is ubiquitous. Large painted cutout figures of Saddam tower over arches in villages and towns. In Baghdad, a 10-metre version can be seen in the city centre.

Photographs of Saddam adorn shops, schools, police stations, army barracks and public buildings. The international airport is named after Saddam. No official will appear in public without evoking his name. School notebooks carry his portrait, while T-shirts bear his likeness. Real enthusiasts can buy a wristwatch with Saddam's visage peering through the dials.

The list goes on. Families name children after him. Extravagant biographies are published. His birthday has been declared a national holiday. In 1982 members of the national assembly wrote in their own blood a pledge of loyalty to him.

In 1986, Iraq passed a decree condemning to death anyone who insults Saddam (or the Ba'ath party, the Revolutionary Command Council and the government).

For all his revolting excesses, Saddam must be credited with some positive accomplishments, writes al-Khalil.

He has increased the standard of living, stabilizing prices through state subsidies (at least before the imposition of the current United Nations embargo). He has greatly increased the minimum wage, keeping inflation in check. He has promulgated labor laws which provide for complete job security. He has introduced free education and health care.

Saddam has presided over the development of transport systems, telecommunications, industrialization and massive housing projects. As well, he has brought electricity to villages, built a vast network of roads, constructed massive housing projects, ushered women into the educational system and attacked illiteracy.

But at the end of the day, Iraq remains a tightly-controlled police state where free speech and dissent are alien concepts and where the slightest challenge to Saddam Hussein's legitimacy is quashed.

Despite its flaws, Israel is really a success

By
SIMON KAHN

As we look back upon the year just ended, despite certain significant high points like the influx of Russian immigrants to Israel, we regard Israel's current situation with a measure of distress. The economic crisis; political tensions; the intifada; relations with the West; difficulties in the resettlement of masses of new immigrants; and the crisis in the Gulf represent some of the more formidable concerns which dominate the immediate future. One wonders how Israel has managed to deal with these realities up to now, and how it is going to cope in the days ahead.

To suggest that Israel is not perfect is not a radical nor an offensive idea. No state in existence is perfect and this is no less true of Israel than it is of Canada, the United States, Britain, France or any other. If Israel has made mistakes, the issue cannot be whether to look upon these mistakes as paramount, but rather to recognize and comprehend the context within which they have been made. In so doing, we must refer, in part, to the history of Israel and the continuing refusal of the vast majority of its neighbors to accept its very existence.

It is most unpopular, particularly among many of the prominent figures passing judgment on Israel and the conflict in the Middle East, to accord proper consideration to the historical perspective in assessing the contemporary reality. It has become unfashionable to acknowledge that Israel has never sought conflict with its neighbors. Israel has never taken formal steps which would effectively prevent open negotiation without precondition. Israel, though its legitimate offers of dialogue and resolution have been rebuffed by the Arab world (with the notable exclusion of Egypt), has not — with the exception of the reunification of the city of Jerusalem — altered the status of the territories. As well, Israel's presence in the territories is a direct result of the 1967 Six Day War, which it fought in self-defence.

Israel has never been given the benefit of the doubt which other nations, both in the same region and elsewhere across the globe, are accorded. Israeli actions, particularly in the last 20 years, have come under such intense scrutiny, vilification and condemnation that it defies the imagination to conceive how any nation can withstand such pressure. When we also consider the superficiality of the solutions suggested to — perhaps soon to be imposed upon — Israel, and recognize that the security and survival of Israel is a major factor in the equation, it is surprising that Israel has managed to come so far.

It is of particular importance to remember that Israel is a democracy surrounded, to a large degree, by dictatorial and oppressive regimes whose human rights records and policies are among the most heinous in the world. In addition, it is the favored target of the armies of those regimes and many terrorist groups — a number of which act as the proxies of states in the Arab world.

We cannot suggest that the continuing lack of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict has not exacted a heavy toll on Israel and the Palestinians. The refusal of the Arab states to negotiate with Israel, and the lack of a credible non-violent representative of the Palestinians, has resulted in the statelessness of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. The political usefulness of the misery of refugees has led to the Palestinians becoming pawns whose situation has hinged upon the will of Arab states and not the interests of the refugees themselves. Israel too has erred at times in its dealings with these people.

However, while Israel is a victim of the posturing and manipulations of the Arab world, and despite its numerous attempts to resolve this conflict, Israel receives the major share of criticism regarding the current situation. Given this treatment, and incorporating the history of the Jewish people into this picture, the lack of understanding appears even more tragic.

Israel, albeit flawed, is really something of a success. The fact is that Israel remains a democracy; its people continue to engage in an intense free debate over its future, the status of the territories, and peace with the Arab states. At the same time Israelis have been forced to accept that the basic recognition of the legitimacy of their state, and its continued existence, is not a popular concept among many people both within and outside of the Arab world.

Despite suggestions to the contrary, and the fear that this will seem a somewhat trite observation, in essence all Israel wants is to live in peace with its neighbors and to be a member of the family of nations. Yet it seems that this is contrary to the accepted thinking in relation to Israel and the Arab-Israel conflict. Such harsh and shortsighted thinking thus becomes another difficulty with which Israel must contend. This may be another reason why Israel does not live up to certain "expectations."

Simon Kahn is the associate director, political bureau, of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Jerusalem — Israel's capital.

Features

Vichy era still a festering sore

Alleged French war criminal triggers controversy

By
ETHAN SCHWARTZ

PARIS —

An effort by French Holocaust survivors to bring a senior official of France's wartime Vichy government to justice for his role in the deportation of French Jewry has spawned a judicial controversy here, with Jewish groups accusing Mitterrand's government of pressuring French judges to avoid a controversial trial.

The former official, Rene Bousquet, served as chief of police under France's collaborationist Vichy government, overseeing the roundup of thousands of French Jews who died in French-run holding camps during the war. According to new evidence brought forth by Jewish groups against Bousquet, he not only co-operated with Nazi authorities but actively promulgated anti-Jewish laws and deportation regulations harsher than those sought by the occupying powers.

France's prosecutor general, who takes his orders from President Mitterand, recently decided France's regular courts have no jurisdiction on the matter, a move that will make it extremely difficult to see Bousquet judged.

The Vichy era has long been a festering sore in French memory, with French histories of the period as well as postwar governments reluctant to acknowledge France's role as the one European state whose wartime leaders actively collaborated in Hitler's plot against the Jews. Much of the period's history has come to light only over the past decade, most notable with the 1987 trial of Klaus Barbie, the head of the Gestapo in Lyon during the war.

But a trial of Bousquet, now 81, would probe far deeper into French sensibilities than did the Barbie case. For while Barbie was a German who fled to Latin America after the war, Bousquet is a blue-blooded Frenchman, scion of a prominent family who rose to become an important French financier and supporter of the Socialist party after the war. An airing of his activities, as well as those of several other senior Vichy collaborators who later went on to succeed in French politics, would force France to confront as never before the current anti-Semitism and fascism which ran — through some sectors of the French establishment.

"Bousquet's case is not the action of the Gestapo, of the Germans in France like Barbie. That was all clear and obvious," Serge Klarsfeld, a Holocaust survivor and noted lawyer who has launched the lawsuit against Bousquet, said. "Bousquet's is the case of the anti-Jewish action of the Vichy regime itself, and of a man who became the head of the most important bank in France."

Bousquet is not an isolated case — several other prominent Frenchmen of his ilk participated in the Final Solution, then went on to amass power in France. French Jewish groups are still investigating the wartime role of Maurice Papon, who as a senior official in Bordeaux during the war personally supervised the deportation of one of France's oldest Jewish communities. Papon rose to become budget minister under former president Valery Giscard D'Estaing in the late 1970s. Another prominent Frenchman, Jean Leguay, oversaw the deportation of Jews as a Vichy deputy. He was indicted in March 1979 but died before his trial — which is what many would like to see happen to Bousquet, French Jewish groups charge.

Beate Klarsfeld

According to evidence amassed by Klarsfeld and others, Bousquet's case is the story of a man who at his worst was a genocidal anti-Semite, or at best an establishment bureaucrat who would not let mass murder stand in the way of what was to become a brilliant career.

Bousquet's headed the police in Vichy France from April 1942 to December 1943, the period during which French officers themselves arrested and deported nearly 80,000 French Jews, only 2,000 of whom survived the war. Bousquet was tried for war crimes in 1949 and judged guilty, but served only four years in prision after using what would become the collective French defence against accusations of collaboration. As a Vichy official, Bousquet argued, he had no other choice but to carry out orders from Nazi occupiers, for fear of worse attrocities if he refused. And secretly, the argument went, Bousquet had used his influence to save French Jews as well as aid the French resistance.

Bousquet rose to become one of the most prominent financiers and figures in French politics. Deputy head of one of France's leading banks during the 1970s, he served on numerous corporate boards and published a centre-left newspaper with close ties to the socialist government.

Bousquet version of his wartime role held until 1978, when Klarsfeld and others opened an investigation into his past. Using secret documents from the 1949 trial, they discovered that Bousquet's argument that he merely followed orders was, in a word, nonsense.

In one discovery, the accusers claim Bousquet met personally with the leaders of the German SS in France on July 2, 1942, and offered them the co-operation of French police in both occupied territory and free zone in arresting stateless Jews.

In another revelation, Klarsfeld claims he has documents proving that Bousquet established regulations against protection of Jews stronger even than those sought by the Nazis — in all probability to curry favor with the Germans as well as anti-Semitic members of the Vichy government. On Aug. 18, 1942, Bousquet allegedly ordered his police to ignore rules protecting stateless orphans and children under five years old from deportation. He also repealed an order allowing deported parents to leave their children in the part of France administered by the Vichy government.

Thousands of Jewish children might have remained protected in France and survived the war if Bousquet had not decreed the harsher rules.

He has repeatedly argued that he did not know the Jews were fated for death. That argument, too, is absurd, Jewish groups claim. "We can prove that 3,000 Jews had already died in holding camps in the free zone" before Bousquet began the 1942 roundup of Jews, Klarsfeld said. "So what could he have expected? That the weather would be better up north in Poland? That German guards would be kinder to Jews than French guards?"

As for Bousquet's claim that he helped protect Jews, the accusers have found memorandums they say prove that the Vichy official did advise the Nazis to slow down the deportation one year later. But that was only because the French population and the Church were protesting the Jews' fate, and Bousquet feared resistance from the French Catholics.

Jewish groups presented the evidence against Bousquet in September 1989, and demanded a new trial. The French courts — which unlike the American courts are not independent of the government — dragged their heels.

Then, last month, the Prosecutor General office ruled Bousquet would have to be tried by the High Court of Justice of the Liberation, a body disolved in the early 1960s and which would have to be reconstituted by the French Parliament — making a trial unlikely.

The ruling has been appealed. French Jewish groups plan to appeal to France's equivalent of the Supreme Court if necessary.

Whatever the outcome, the French government's attitude to the case has infuriated the Holocaust survivors, who see in it the typical French will to ignore the nation's own guilt in the Holocaust. An investigation by the French daily Le Monde concluded that President Mitterand himself has ordered his Ministry of Justice to try avoid a trial of the aged Bousquet, to preserve the "public peace."

A trial of Bousquet would, like no other event before it, force France to stare squarely into the face of an atrocity it has long blamed on German outsiders. That would be particularly important, giving the raising efforts of France's far-right to question the existence of the Holocaust, as well as efforts to rehabilitate the memory of Marshall Petain, the First World War field marshall who ruled France under Vichy.

(The Forward)

Chic Nazi-hunter goes after prey relentlessly

By
ALIZA MARCUS

NEW YORK —

With her well-coiffed blond hair and pink wool sweater, Beate Klarsfeld looks more like a chic French housewife than the famed Nazi-hunter.

Her efforts have unearthed and brought to trial people such as Klaus Barbie, serving a life sentence for deporting more than 7,000 Jews to death camps; Kurt Lischke, former chief of the Gestapo in France now finishing a 10-year sentence; and Josef Schwammberger, currently on trial in Germany for allegedly supervising and participating in the deaths of hundreds of Jews at forced labor camps in Poland.

It is the stuff from which movies have been made — and one about her life was — yet she recounts the tales in a soft-spoken voice with a hint of a smile, as if her actions, those of a German-born Christian woman, were not uncommon. Names and dates and arrests and demonstrations tumble over each other, from protests against Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, linked with deportations in Yugoslavia, to her agitation in Chile against Walter Rauff, the now-dead Nazi who devised the mobile gas vans that killed 97,000 people.

She identified Alois Brunner, Adolf Eichmann's chief aide who has been hiding in Syria for over 30 years; travelled to Beirut to offer herself in place of Lebanese Jews held hostage; and campaigned against anti-Semitism on almost every continent. She dismisses as unimportant the arrests, the nasty phone calls, the threatening letters, the parcel bomb police safely neutralized and the car bomb they did not.

"We came into this business because it was necessary, because there wasn't anybody else doing it, because it was some kind of obligation," says the 51-year-old Klarsfeld, who together with her husband, Serge, has spent decades uncovering the very lives former Nazis and their collaborators have worked to bury in their post-war rise to respectability.

Their tactics start with meticulous research and documentation and, when the facts are known, the survivors located and the identity assured, they move in with public protests, something that often embarrasses the host country into starting extradition or criminal proceedings. "A lot of people get embarrassed over what we do even though they admire us for our work, but this is our way to act, and as a German, I am showing the type of responsibility my generation should have had," she explains, sitting in a New York office.

What brought her out of Paris this time was a series of lectures and plans to organize demonstrations against Fred Leuchter, a self-proclaimed engineer and expert on executions who had published a book claiming that, based on scientific evidence, the gas chambers of Auschwitz and Majdanek were really disinfection booths.

The state of Massachusetts has arraigned him

Rene Bousquet

on charges of practicing engineering without a license, which observers believe was partly a response to pressure from Holocaust groups that had worked to make his revisionist sentiments known, and in so doing, exposed his lack of engineering qualifications. Klarsfeld, along with about 50 people trailed by 15 journalists, stood outside the courthouse, placards in hand. Soon after Leuchter entered a plea of innocent, Klarsfeld left to give her lectures before flying back to home, with plans on returning for the pre-trial hearings later on.

This Nazi-hunter, this woman who shocked the world in 1968 by publicly slapping German Chancellor Kurt-Georg Kiesinger after uncovering his work for Nazi radio propaganda, began her ascent into activism as a 21-year-old au pair in France who caught the eye of a 25-year-old political science student in 1960.

What might have seemed an unlikely pair — she, a German Christian whose father served in the Wehrmacht; he, a French Jew whose father died at Auschwitz — now seems to be the most likely of teams.

The 55-year-old Serge Klarsfeld, a lawyer and currently director of the Jewish Documentation Center in Paris, was her first teacher of the Holocaust, and together they have come to signify a battle between good and evil.

"For over 20 years they have done this because they can't accept that Nazis won't somehow become responsible for their earlier actions," says Shelly Shapiro, director of the Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice, an educational and documentation group whose list of honorary directors includes Beate Klarsfeld. "They can't just sit back and allow these former Nazis to go unpunished."

The former director of the Office of Special Investigations, which was formed in 1979 as part of the Justice Department to coordinate efforts to search for Nazi war criminals in the United States, complimented the Klarsfelds' abilities to back up their claims with meticulous documentation and research.

"This puts them in a very different class from people interested in just publicity," said Allan Ryan Jr., who now works as a lawyer for Harvard University. Still, the Klarsfelds are not without their detractors, and their public methods have earned them criticism from Simon Wiesenthal, the legendary tracker of Nazis, who prefers a more low-key approach to exposing such crimes.

Beate Klarsfeld is quick to acknowledge Wiesenthal's important role, and explains their differences are ones of means and not ends because, in the end, all three believe former Nazis should be called to account for their crimes against humanity.

Klarsfeld and others who have devoted their lives to tracking down Nazi war criminals speak of that time — maybe in 10 years, maybe in five — when few of the perpetrators will still be alive, or those alive will be judged too elderly and ill to stand trial.

With this end in mind, an important part of Klarsfeld's work is documenting, with Nazi-prepared reports, lists of Jews deported to concentration camps and gassed, as testimony against those who would deny that the Holocaust, the mass extermination of six million Jews during the Second World War, actually occurred.

Klarsfeld, whose work has always been focused on searching for German and French Nazis, accepts the upcoming deaths of long-sought Nazi war criminals — and an end to her searching — with equanimity: "Even if they die peacefully, it's better than having them alive, because the victims are always offended that they (Nazis) are living free."

"I've spoken to a lot of Nazi war criminals and faced them, and I think the most awful thing is that they have no regrets, that they make you feel like a criminal for troubling their quiet life," says Klarsfeld. "They are always so secure, believing that nothing will happen to them."

She smiles for a moment: "But we have always hoped, and sometimes it has been true, that one day something would happen and when it does, when they have to go to jail, I hope they remember that moment of protesting their innocence."

(JTA)

Members challenging basic tenets

Alternative society in kibbutz undergoing change

By
YOSEF GOELL

Toddlers on a kibbutz. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

JERUSALEM —

In a recent survey of kibbutz members conducted by the Centre for the Study of the Kibbutz of Haifa University, about half the members of the Labor party-affiliated United Kibbutz Movement favored changing one of the basic principles of the kibbutz by granting monetary compensation to members for additional work.

About one-third of the members of the much more doctrinaire Mapam-affiliated Kibbutz Artzi expressed support for this revolutionary proposal.

Clearly, some profound changes are occurring — mostly underground, so far — among Israel's 270 kibbutzim.

The fast-crumbling Communist world always paid lip service to the basic tenet of socialist economic equality, subsumed in the slogan: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." In 70 years of practice, however, the ruling tyrannies and bureaucracies that took over from the revolutionaries who had ousted the old regimes used that formula as an ideological facade. Behind it, they proceeded to replace one form of extreme economic inequality with another — and an economic system of monumental inefficiency, to boot.

The Israeli kibbutz movement, which differs from Communist societies in its voluntary, democratic collectivism, is nonetheless an offspring of the same intellectual ferment and social and political radicalism of turn-of-the-century Europe that gave rise to socialist and Communist movements around the world. Because of its voluntary and democratic nature, the Israeli kibbutz is perhaps the only modern social movement that over four generations has racked up an extraordinary record of achievement and has actually advanced toward that goal of economic equality.

There is irony in the fact that, as the kibbutz movement celebrates its 80th anniversary, a significant number of kibbutz members would seem to be casting around for different ways of doing things on the kibbutz. Kibbutzim today are very different from what they were in early decades, but one of the central aspects that continue to differentiate them from the rest of "outside" society is the total separation between what members contribute to the collective through their work, knowhow, professional expertise and personal characteristics, and what they and their families receive from the collective in terms of material compensation.

There has never been absolute equality on the kibbutz, but the manager of the most sophisticated kibbutz high-tech industry and the members of his or her family do not enjoy better material conditions than does the family of the relatively unskilled kibbutznik who is monotonously tending the production line in that plant. Nor does the kibbutz member who cannot work at all, due to disability or old age, suffer economically.

In that sense, the kibbutz claim that it has succeeded in functioning as an alternative society over eight decades now is a valid one.

Under the pressure of the extreme financial crisis of the recent years, however, a growing number of kibbutz mavericks are calling for basic changes in how life is lived on the kibbutz, and especially in how kibbutzniks work and make a living.

They are not openly challenging the basic tenet of far-going material equality among members, but the hottest item on the kibbutz agenda these days is the subject of *temura letruma* (a play on words in Hebrew), connoting additional monetary compensation in return for additional work and effort.

Some manifestations of this trend are discernible: in Kibbutz Neot Mordechai in the Upper Galilee panhandle, the general assembly decided a year ago to experiment with a system of monetary payments for overtime that members would volunteer to put in on weekends in the fruit-packing house and the plastic-sheeting plant. The rate of compensation was set at $3.50 (U.S.) an hour. The general assembly decided recently to turn the experiment into a permanent feature.

Neot, a long-established maverick kibbutz, was the first to introduce self-service cafeteria-style service in its dining hall as far as the early 1950s. Its plastic-sheeting plant had obtained large export orders, but filling them on schedule required the plant to operate three shifts a day. That was also the condition for the plant making a profit.

The monotonous work of tending the noisy textile-weaving machines that turn out the miles of green sheeting that is fast replacing burlap for many purposes around the world is so tedious that nearly no kibbutz members were ready to make the extra effort to do shift work. But as soon as the additional pay was offered, according to one member, the list of members volunteering to work overtime on shifts was so long that most had to be turned away.

In Kibbutz Hulda, on the back road between Jerusalem and Rehovot, the economic crisis struck so badly that 25 per cent of its members left over a three-year period, reducing the number of members to a dangerously low 170. Kibbutz secretary Shai Huladai said that the situation got so bad and the depression of the remaining members became so deep that they finally took themselves in hand and adopted a series of far-reaching proposals for changes, including the closing down of the collective dining hall for two of the three daily meals.

Huladai said the focal point of the platform was to accord top priority to the kibbutz economy and to the basic need for the kibbutz to make a living. "We never openly use the term *temura letruma*," he says, "but what we have decided to do is to enable members to (earn more) by doing additional work during their leisure hours."

Kibbutz Beit Oren, which is situated in the middle of the Carmel National Park, in effect collapsed two years ago and is now being resuscitated by a totally new group of young people. Several years ago, the bulk of the middle-aged and young members of Beit Oren abandoned the 50-year-old kibbutz. They left behind about 50 veteran members, including 25 over retirement age, who were totally unable to maintain the kibbutz or to support themselves.

The United Kibbutz Movement mobilized a small group of outside kibbutz volunteers to save the place, but the volunteers imposed a condition: They must be permitted to rehabilitate Beit Oren on an entirely new basis. Dodik Rotenberg, the kibbutz secretary who is a former member of Kibbutz Gonnen and a former paratroop commander, says that during the past two years they have succeeded in attracting 70 new young members from the cities. The main change so far is that the economic emphasis in the rehabilitation plan for Beit Oren has been shifted from the collective to the individual, with every member being encouraged to take his or her own economic initiatives.

One of these, regarded as a supplement to the long-established kibbutz guest house, is a new riding academy that is cashing in on the exhilarating scenery of Mt. Carmel. As is the case in Hulda and in many other kibbutzim, members in Beit Oren are encouraged to work outside the kibbutz, "on condition that they earn enough to support themselves and their families at kibbutz levels."

Rotenberg said that the kibbutz had not yet gotten around to discussing the idea of instituting special pay for overtime, "but such a proposal, linked with another one for instituting an official five-day work week, are in the pipeline."

The United Kibbutz Movement and Kibbutz Artzi establishments are dead set against such heresies and have attempted to talk the offending kibbutzim that have been considering them out of it. Prof. Menachem Rosner of the Centre for the Study of the Kibbutz, who is a member of Kibbutz Reshafim in the Beit She'en Valley, says only 33 kibbutzim out of the 270 have begun formal consideration of such proposals. Of those, 10 have concluded their deliberations by rejecting the idea, while only three have adopted it.

Prof. Uriel Levitan of the centre notes that studies conducted among kibbutz members on the proposed changes regarding work arrangements and remuneration show support for these changes among one-half and one-third respectively in the two major kibbutz movements.

The high percentage of kibbutz members supporting such changes should be taken as a warning sign that the kibbutz rank and file are in a state of profound malaise and discontent. They may not know what will not work and what will really allay their discontent, but they do know that things are no longer the way they used to be on the kibbutz.

(Jerusalem Post Feature Service)

Beersheba - an emerging desert metropolis

By
ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

BEERSHEBA —

A fading desert mirage little more than a year ago, Beersheba is being transformed by Soviet immigration into an emergent metropolis before its own astonished eyes.

A frenzy of building sweeping the city from one end to the other reflects not only an inflow of 6,000 immigrants in 10 months but a sense that the city is about to achieve the critical mass that will make it at last a vibrant urban centre.

"I said when I took office that Beersheba has to decide what it wants to be when it grows up," says Yitzhak Rager who became mayor in 1989. "I see it as a regional capital, a city of half a million."

That appeared little more than a desert hallucination when Rager took over as mayor of the city with some 115,000 residents. Instead of growing, Beersheba had actually lost one per cent of its population in 1988 — the first negative growth it had recorded since 1948 — as residents fled unemployment and stagnation. The municipality was in such bad shape, the new mayor was hard put to scrounge enough money to pay salaries at City Hall.

Rager, a former head of Israel Bonds and a business promoter, managed to halt the bleeding and infuse City Hall with dynamism. Then the Soviet floodgates suddenly opened, turning fanciful sketches of the city's future into working blueprints.

The availability of apartments in Beersheba — apartments left vacant by the outflow of disgruntled locals — and the presence of close to 20,000 Russians from the immigration of the 1970s made the city attractive for the newcomers despite fears of the desert clime. The stock of empty apartments is now exhausted, but feverish activity at building sites around the city indicates that the new chapter is only beginning.

No city in Israel enjoys greater prospects from the Soviet aliya than Beersheba. National planners have designated the city as a principal focus for immigrant settlement because of its virtually unlimited room for expansion and its geo-political role as capital of the Negev.

The great future forecast by David Ben-Gurion for the Negev has been left a pious wish for the past four decades, with less than seven per cent of the population presently living between Kiryat Gat and Eilat, 60 per cent of the national territory.

"This is a historic opportunity to solve both the development of the Negev and the absorption of immigration," says Rager. "I say that half the immigration should go to the Negev. Of this, half should go to Beersheba."

Beersheba's current population is 120,000, one-third that of Tel Aviv which occupies virtually the same amount of land. Under an outline plan drawn up before the immigration wave, Beersheba's population was to reach 250,000. Rager now calls for doubling this figure and some planners see the city's population reaching one million. The municipality is presently drawing up plans to expand the city's territory by 50 per cent.

"As a city of 250,000 we'll be a metropolis with a different commercial life, a different cultural life," says Deputy Mayor Eli Boker, responsible for the city's planning department. "We'll also be a regional centre serving an increased population from the other Negev towns." The recent decision by the police to shift Southern Districts headquarters from Jerusalem to Beersheba is seen in the city as recognition of its new status. City officials express hope that other government ministries and public service companies like the Israel Electric Coporation will follow suit.

* * *

In recent months, Beersheba has, for the first time, burst beyond the rail line that confined it on the north, with the beginning of construction of a 5,000-unit neighborhood called Ramot beyond Ben-Gurion University. To the south, a 9,000-unit quarter, Hatserim, has been launched beyond the cemetery that once lay well out of town. Within the existing city, 7,000 units are to be constructed within the next four years as infill between sprawling nieghborhoods. This will significantly change the appearance of a loosely built, indeed shapeless, city overly dappled by brown, sun-beaten open spaces. Initially conceived as a garden city in the desert, made up of a collection of low-density quarters, Beersheba will achieve a more appropriate compact form and, hopefully, some architectural grace.

There is an active cultural life in Beersheba which has its own theatre group, Sinfonietta, musical conservatory and Bat Dor school for modern dance. The Russian immigrants are certain to make a powerful cultural impact, both as consumers and performers. About eight per cent of Beersheba's veteran residents are college graduates; among the immigrants who have arrived so far this year the figure is 40 per cent.

World

Flight insurance soars

Airlines cut Mideast flights

NEW YORK (JTA) —

As the U.N.-imposed Jan. 15 deadline for Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait approaches, some international airlines are suspending or curtailing flights to the Middle East, while the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has moved up its exam schedule to allow for the quick departure of foreign students.

Pan American World Airways has announced it was suspending indefinitely flights to Tel Aviv and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, because of a tremendous increase in the cost of flight insurance. Until now, Pan Am operated twice weekly flights to Riyadh and flew six days a week to Tel Aviv.

Pan Am's Jan. 3 announcement followed decisions by airlines, including British Airways and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, to reduce flights to Tel Aviv from six to four times a week.

British Airways will institute the new policy starting Jan. 15 through March 31. An airline spokeswoman attributed the cutback to a winter slowdown in ticket demand.

This follows the airline's decision three months ago to change flight schedules so flight crews and airplanes would not have to stay overnight in Tel Aviv, which Saddam Hussein has vowed would be Iraq's first target if it is attacked.

Other airlines with the same policy include Swissair, KLM and Air France.

The Israeli Tourism Ministry criticized Pan Am's decision and urged the airline to resume services as soon as possible.

"To our view, there is no reason for Pan Am to suspend this service," said Rafael Farber, tourism commissioner for North America. "Life in Israel continues in a normal fashion, and thousands of tourists from countries all over the world are continuing to enjoy their stay."

Farber suggested Pan Am switch to non-stop service rather than routing its flights through Paris, "a service which has proved profitable for airlines such as El Al," Israel's national airline.

Pan Am was hit hard by an increase at the start of the new year in flight insurance, which was raised last week from $3,500 per flight to $65,000 for planes flying to Israel. The coverage for flights to Riyadh rose from $16,000 to $162,000, said Pam Hanlon, an airline Spokeswomen.

Tickets to Israel will be honored by El Al, while ticket holders for Riyadh flights will be accommodated by other airlines.

Hanlon said Pan Am, which receives its insurance coverage from Lloyd's of London, is working with the U.S. State Department and Department of Transportation to arrange for government-provided war risk insurance.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said petitions for the insurance, which is provided at a low cost, had been submitted by both Pan Am and Trans World Airlines, which also was affected by the insurance rate increase.

Government-provided insurance has been available since the Korean War and was used most recently for commercial and cargo planes ferrying troops and supplies to Saudi Arabia, said FAA spokesman Fred Farrar.

Meanwhile, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which has close to 1,500 foreign students studying there this term, has arranged an optional early exam period under pressure from students' parents.

Exams for overseas students were originally scheduled for the end of January. While that remains, students now have the option of taking exams Jan. 8-10, with a take-home test due at the start of the second semester in late February.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy (left) greets Alexei Tchistiakov, the Soviet Union's new consul in Israel, during the presentation of credentials. [IPPA photo]

Israeli flag again flies over skies of Moscow

TEL AVIV (JTA) —

The Israeli flag was raised last week over diplomatic premises in Moscow for the first time in nearly 24 years.

It was raised in modest ceremonies Jan. 3 over what had been the Israeli Embassy until the Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with the Jewish state in June 1967 after the Six-Day War.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made," Israeli Consul General Arye Levin said in Hebrew, quoting from Psalm 118, as he hoisted the blue and white flag with the Star of David over the building in the presence of a group of Soviet Jews.

Full diplomatic relations still have not been restored between the two countries. Many observers believe, however, that the formal opening of the new Israeli Consulate on Jan. 3 was a major move in that direction.

"I don't know what obstacles remain," said Levin, who was accredited as consul general on Dec. 25 by outgoing Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. On that day, in a reciprocal ceremony, Alexei Chistyakov, the first Soviet consul general in Israel since 1967, presented his credentials to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in Jerusalem.

At the ceremony, Levin asked, "If we can have consular relations, why can't we have full diplomatic relations? What is the difference? Diplomatic relations should be established between countries even if they don't see eye to eye on a number of questions."

Meanwhile, Levin and his staff were busy preparing to start issuing Israeli visas at the new consulate to the Soviet Jews applying to immigrate each day. The consulate was closed last Thursday for most business because of the ceremonies, but on Friday the Israelis began for the first time to issue Israeli visas unaided.

Rebbe reacts to rabbi's sermon

NEW YORK (JTA) —

An Israeli Orthodox sage who infuriated Holocaust survivors and other Jews by claiming the Shoah was God's punishment for their abandonment of the Torah, has received an indirect rebuke from the Lubavitcher rebbe.

"All who perished in the Holocaust — man, woman and child — were holy and pure. They died solely because they were Jews. Each and every one was a righteous martyr," declared the rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson.

He spoke to about 3,000 disciples at Lubavitch world headquarters in Brooklyn on the Tenth of Tevet, a day of fasting and mourning when Jewish suffering, during both the Temple period and modern times, is remembered.

His message, broadcast live around the world, was clearly intended as a response to the sermon delivered to yeshiva students in the Israeli town of Bnei Brak by Rabbi Eliezer Schach, dean of the Ponovezh Yeshiva there and spiritual mentor of the Orthodox Degel HaTorah party.

Schach, 94, advanced the idea that the Holocaust was a result of cumulative divine wrath over the Jewish people's wholesale abandonment of Orthodoxy under the influence of the enlightenment, socialism and Zionism.

He specifically denounced secular Jews for eating pork and failing to observe the Sabbath and religious festivals.

Schach is a theological foe and long-time critic of the Lubavitcher rebbe, the Chassidic leader whose Chabad movement tries to draw secular Jews back to religion.

Schneerson was especially vociferous in his attack on the notion, expounded by Schach, that further retributive suffering might befall the Jewish people if they fail to observe Orthodox customs.

"This suggestion is unconscionable," the rebbe declared, without mentioning who had made it. "The future bodes only well for the Jewish people. There will never be another Holocaust. There will be redemption and joy."

Schach maintained that "God is long-suffering but eventually, when a point of saturation is reached, he wreaks his punishment."

According to the rebbe, however, "the tragedy of the Holocaust is an unanswerable question. There is no human rationale whatsoever that can explain such indescribable suffering.

"Indeed, God's words to his prophet that, 'My thoughts are not as your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways' (Isaiah 55:8), is all that can be said."

The rebbe added, "Any attempt to cast blame, for whatever reason, upon those who perished is shocking."

UN decision draws ire of Israelis

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) —

Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders reacted bitterly to the Security Council's unanimous decision Jan. 4 to adopt a statement criticizing actions by Israeli security forces in the Gaza Strip.

This was the fourth time in four months the 15-member council, with the support of the United States, has criticized Israel for its treatment of the Palestinians living in the territories.

But unlike the three previous actions, which were official resolutions, the statement is non-binding.

The three days of negotiations leading to the statement's acceptance were prompted by the killing of at least six Palestinians and the wounding of about 150 others by Israeli security forces in the Gaza Strip on the weekend preceding New Year's Day.

The issue was raised in the Security Council by the Palestine Liberation Organization on Dec. 31, the final day of Yemeni Ambassador Abdalla al-Ashtal's term as council president.

The United States successfully lobbied the other council members to accept general language condemning "recent acts of violence in Gaza." But the statement goes on to say "especially actions by Israeli security forces against Palestinians, which led to scores of casualties among those civilians."

The statement also reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which protects the rights of civilians living under occupation, to the "Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and request that Israel, the occupying power, fully comply with the provisions of the convention."

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In Brief

From CJN wire services

POPULATION SOARS

Israel's population grew by 5.7 per cent in 1990, and is now 4,882,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported last week.

The growth, the largest recorded since 1951, was due to the arrival of 200,000 immigrants and birth of 104,000 children.

The report did not break down citizenship by religion, but Israel's Jewish population is about 83 per cent or just over 4,000,000.

* * *

DISTRIBUTION OF GAS MASKS RESUMES

With one week remaining before the UN deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait, the Israel Defence Force has resumed the distribution of gas masks in urban areas.

Since the IDF distribution program began last fall, 150,000 teachers and over one million students have been trained in the use of the masks, according to Israel's civil defence chief Brig.-Gen. Uri Manos.

* * *

CARAVANS ARRIVE

The first shipment of 441 American-made trailers, or *caravanim* as they are known in Hebrew, were unloaded at Ashdod port last week. A second shipment of the pre-fab houses is due later this month.

Meanwhile Housing Minister Ariel Sharon announced that he will place some of the trailers on his private farm.

* * *

50,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

A plan to bring some 50,000 new well-trained workers into Israel's construction industry was unveiled last week by a coalition of contractors and construction workers.

Under the program, new immigrants or unemployed persons will be guaranteed a gross salary of $750 (U.S.) a month plus benefits from the day they are accepted into the program.

In recent years, Israel's labor intensive construction industry — which relies heavily on Arab labor from the territories — has been wracked by intifada-related strikes.

* * *

MIDDLE CLASS BEING SQUEEZED

While Israel's rich are getting richer and the poor are becoming slightly better off, the position of the middle class is worsening, the country's National Insurance Institute (NII) director said last week.

"The situation of the poorest families is being improved by the NII allowances," Mordechai Zippori told a Jerusalem press conference.

But Zippori emphasized that 118,000 families — 439,000 people, including 200,000 children — are living below the poverty level.

Yusuf Nasaradin (right) and Yehuda Azrieli. [Alron photo]

Druse happy, but would like more govt. support

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

TORONTO —

The Druse minority in Israel are well off and count their blessings as Israeli citizens, but the government should do more to reward their loyalty to the state, says the chairman of the Druse-Zionist Movement.

"We are very free in Israel," declared Yusuf Nasaradin. "It's the best place in the world for Druse to live."

Israel is home to 70,000 Druse, scattered throughout 18 towns and villages. An additional 15,000 Druse are found on the Golan Heights, which Israel annexed in 1981. An Arabic-speaking Middle Eastern sect, the Druse hew to a faith combining elements of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Larger Druse communities inhabit parts of Lebanon and Syria.

Nasaradin, a former combat medic in the army, says his people are well integrated into Israeli society, and points out that about 300 Druse soldiers have fallen in Israel's wars since 1948.

In hard, practical terms, however, the government has not sufficiently recognized Druse contributions to Israel, he suggested in an interview.

Nasaradin was in Toronto recently as guest of the Canadian Zionist Federation. He was accompanied by Yehuda Azrieli, an Israeli Jewish authority on the Druse whose book, *Friendship Which Stood The Test Of Time*, is a commentary on the Druse of Israel, and is currently being translated into English from the original Hebrew.

Nasaradin, a businessman in private life, explained that Druse communities suffer from at least two problems that government can ameliorate or solve.

The first is a shortage of funds for municipal development. "Our financial support from government is 30 per cent lower than comparable Jewish villages," Nasaradin noted Azrieli, a former journalist who has maintained close ties with the Druse for the past 20 years, said that town planning in the Druse sector lags "very far behind."

Nasaradin, whose father sided with the Yishuv in pre-independent Israel, hopes the gap can be closed within three years. Or, as Azrieli put it somewhat cynically, "before the next election."

Druse communities with demobilized Druse soldiers are also in great need of university scholarships. Unlike Israeli Arabs, Druse males are subject to conscription. Like all able-bodied Jews, they serve three years in the armed forces. But because Druse families are large and Druse men marry early, they usually can't afford to pay for tuition.

At present, some 500 Druse are enrolled in Israeli universities, but the figure should really be 1,000, Nasaradin said.

A Druse scholarship fund, he added, would cost about $200,000 (U.S.), which Azrieli dismissed as a piddling sum.

Asked why Druse have never been represented as full ministers in the Israeli cabinet, Nasaradin said his people lack influence in either the Likud bloc or the Labor party, which, he claimed, receive much of the Druse vote. Asked if he considered that an injustice, he dodged the question. But Azrieli — the past director general of the Israel Zionist Council — minced no words, saying the total lack of a Druse presence in the cabinet was patently unfair.

"The Druse are part of our defence line," Azrieli said, referring to Druse conscripts and officers in the armed forces. "They're good soldiers, I can tell you that. They're brave people, good fighters.

"The friendship and partnership between Druse and Jews didn't start in 1948 with Israel's emergence as a sovereign state. The ties go back to the 1920s. Most Druse identified with the Jewish wish for independence. There was always a strong link between the Zionist leadership and Druse leaders."

Nasaradin's late father, Salah, co-operated with the Hagana in the 1930s, providing the Yishuv with intelligence.

Nasaradin, who's from the village of Dalyat El Carmel, near Haifa, said that the Druse have not been affected by the deterioration of Arab-Jewish relations in Israel of late.

"There is no hatred between Jews and Druse. We're fully integrated in Israel." As if to underline his point, Nasaradin went on to say that the majority of Druse troops serve on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where the intifada has raged for the past three years.

Nasaradin described the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who called for the "transfer" of Arabs from Israel, as "a very big fanatic."

Azrieli claimed that Kahane, founder of the Kach party, "never included Druse" in his anti-Arab diatribes. "The Arabs are not like the Druse, who helped build up Israel."

Asked what effect the Palestinian uprising has had on the Druse community, Nasaradin replied: "The intifada is anti-Israel and, therefore, against me because I am an Israeli."

He said he and his fellow Druse have no sympathy for the concept of Palestinian self-determination in the territories. "The homeland of the Palestinians is Jordan. It is impossible, in this small area, to create a new state."

Nasaradin, together with six other Druse, founded the Druse-Zionist Movement in 1975, after the United Nations equated Zionism with racism. Its membership today is 3,000.

In 1986, Nasaradin and Azrieli were instrumental in establishing the Druse-Jewish Council, whose function is to facilitate the integration of Druse into Israeli society. Yitzhak Navon, the past president of Israel, is its current chairman.

Nasaradin is also founder of Amuta, an organization devoted to the advancement of Druse in Israel.

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Jewish National Fund world chairman Moshe Rivlin (left) and Housing and Development Minister Ariel Sharon at a ceremony in Sderot where JNF land was being used for housing development for immigrants. [IPPA photo]

Appeals to construction industry

Sharon calls on Canada

KIRYAT GAT — Israel Housing Minister Ariel Sharon appealed to Canadians in the construction industry to participate in the settlement of Soviet Jews here.

Speaking to a Canadian Jewish Congress delegation on the site of a new housing project for Soviet olim in the town of Kiryat Gat, Sharon said he is not aware of any Canadian companies presently involved in significant housing construction in Israel.

"We need major construction companies to come build here," said Sharon. "We need mobile and pre-fabricated homes. Jews abroad have to participate in this effort. Tenders continue to go out. We now have a tremendous opportunity. If we don't create the opportunity here, then the Jews will go to other places. Jews feel they have to escape from the Soviet Union. This is not an immigration. It is an evacuation."

Sharon told the CJC group that he chose Kiryat Gat to address them because "I wanted to bring you here and have you see what is being done to house the new immigrants."

Kiryat Gat, with a population of 30,000 and growing, is located 68 kilometres from Jerusalem in Israel's Lakhish Region. Close to 1,000 housing units are now under construction, with an additional 5,000 planned over the next five years. Mayor Zeev Boim participated in the meeting as well, which included a tour of the complex.

"Everything being done here today in Kiryat Gat will provide us with an answer for only two nights of immigration to Israel," Sharon explained. "All the cranes, trucks, tractors and bulldozers is for two days' work of arrivals. That is if the situation, as it stands now, remains the same."

Sharon noted that 200,000 new immigrants arrived in Israel in 1990.

Provided the situation for Jews in the Soviet Union does not change for the worse over the next year, 400,000 olim will arrive in 1991 and one million within the next five years.

"In this country," said Sharon, "I have been involved on many fronts. This is a positive front. There will be more culture and a higher level of technology. There are tremendous possibilities for Israel and the rest of the world."

Sharon said that 10,000 apartment units have been renovated since last August and the problem of homeless Israelis living in tents has been resolved.

"Within the next five years we must build 500,000 apartments," Sharon said. "Meanwhile, for now, we have to look at other solutions such as military camps and prefabricated homes. We now need about 4,000 mobile homes."

CJC president Les Scheininger commended Sharon for a recent initiative he has taken in placing three trailers on his own farm property, thus enabling immigrant families to benefit from services available there.

Sharon stood by a large map of Israel, detailing where the new olim will be settled. He emphasized that Judea and Samaria are not included in this plan in order not to harm the aliya of Soviet Jews to Israel.

CJC is holding the first-ever meetings of its National Executive Committee in Israel in the organization's 72-year history. On the third day of the trip, the group also travelled to Beersheba and visited an absorption centre, a technical college and met with Mayor Itzhak Rager. Later in the evening they went to Ben Gurion Airport to meet a planeload of Soviet Jews.

Water management comes under attack

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A devastating critique of the government's water resources management policies over the last 25 years has put State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat at the centre of a bitter controversy.

Her 62-page report, published last week, accused successive agriculture ministers and water commissioners of allowing the profligate—use of water while ignoring statistical evidence of dwindling supplies.

The report charged that the present acute water shortage, which might necessitate rationing, is the direct result of a quarter-century of overuse permitted by complacent authorities, possibly in violation of the laws governing the management of water resources.

Ben-Porat accused past agriculture ministers of bowing to the demands of farmers' interest groups and Knesset lobbyists to keep subsidized irrigation water rates low, thereby encouraging overuse and depletion of the country's water supply.

The comptroller's report was immediately challenged by Water Commissioner Tsemah Ishai, who bears the brunt of much criticism. He called it "grossly exaggerated" and said he has no intention of resigning.

But Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who has been in office only six months, accepted the report and promised to give it serious study and consider its recommendations.

The most far-reaching proposal is to remove responsibility for the nation's water economy from the Agriculture Ministry, which represents a major vested interest. Agriculture accounts for about 70 per cent of water use in Israel.

Instead, Ben-Porat would put water management under the control of an objective state authority, which would be staffed by experts who would be concerned with the country's overall needs, immediate and long-term.

Israel's water account is presently overdrawn in excess of 1.9 billion cubic feet, the equivalent of its annual needs.

The country is in its fourth consecutive year of drought conditions. The water level of Lake Kinneret in Galilee, the largest natural reservoir, is at its lowest point on record.

In the coastal plane, the ground water has subsided, allowing sea water to seep in. Saline water has infiltrated the water table in Western Galilee and the hilly central sector, which supplies water for Israel's three largest cities.

The result has been a serious decline in the quality of water supplied to the public.

Eitan, who has turned out to be an activist agriculture minister, warned a month ago that a water crisis was imminent and predicted that rationing would be required for agricultural, industrial and domestic uses.

Responding to the furor generated by Ben-Porat's report, Eitan said it was more important to correct the present situation than "waste energy" on recriminations.

Ben-Porat charged that statistics supplied by hydrologists and by Mekorot, the state-owned water company, were systematically ignored by successive agriculture ministers and water commissioners.

They consistently overestimated the amount of water available by counting sewage as a water reserve, even though many of the planned sewage treatment plants had not yet been built, the comptroller charged.

Ben-Porat is no stranger to controversy. The retired member of the High Court of Justice, who became the government's fiscal watch dog, has incurred wrath in high places.

She has issued reports during the past year complaining that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government failed to anticipate the massive influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and was caught unprepared.

She also accused the Orthodox Shas party, a key member of Shamir's coalition government, of the misuse of funds allotted to it by the Treasury.

Agriculture Minister Eitan, meanwhile, is proposing long-term solutions to the water shortage. He would phase out certain heavy irrigation crops such as cotton, and substitute crops that can thrive on saline water, vast supplies of which exist in the Negev.

Eitan said that the Negev would have to become Israel's primary agricultural region.

Eitan also wants to encourage the construction of desalination plants all over the country to cope with the sudden increase of demand brought about by mass immigration.

That includes not only domestic water use but water for industries that have to be built to supply jobs for the newcomers.

In the interim, serious consideration is being given to the importation of fresh water in tankers from Turkey or Yugoslavia.

The water shortage has repercussions for the international scene, since it affects not just Israel but the entire region. An equitable sharing of water resources would be an important part of peace negotiations with the neighboring Arab states.

Scrolls project chief fired

JERUSALEM (JPFS) — The Harvard scholar who termed Judaism a "horrible" religion that should have disappeared from history was removed from his position as editor-in-chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication project on Dec. 31.

A brief announcement by the Israel Antiquities Authority said that Prof. John Strugnell was being relieved of his duties because of "health reasons."

The Authority's four-man Scrolls Advisory Committee called for Strugnell's dismissal at a meeting at Jerusalem's Rockefeller Museum. A committee member explained that it was not the British-born scholar's anti-Semitic remarks which led to his dismissal, but "his physical and mental condition." Strugnell, 60, was reported to have been hospitalized in the United States last month.

An interview given by Strugnell to a reporter for the daily Ha'aretz in November, in which he vented unabashed anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli sentiment, electrified the scholarly world and evoked widespread calls abroad for his replacement.

Asked what troubled him about Judaism, Strugnell told the interviewer "The fact that it has survived. The solution to the Jewish problem to my mind is mass conversion to Christianity. In my opinion this will happen."

When the Antiquities Authority appointed a young Israeli scholar, Prof. Emanuel Tov as co-editor of the series of Scroll volumes being published in England, Strugnell objected to it as an attempt by Israeli scholars to take credit for scroll research.

The move, however, was hailed by distinguished Christian scholars involved in scrolls decipherment as a justified rebuke to Strugnell. A Harvard colleague, Prof. Frank Cross, declared publicly that Strugnell "was being highly ineffective in his job."

The Ha'aretz interview, a translation of which was widely circulated among scholars abroad, was a major subject of conversation during a national archeological congress in New Orleans in November. Members of the Ancient Manuscripts Committee of the American Schools of Oriental Research, meeting within the context of the congress, sent a letter to the Israel Antiquities Authority approving Tov's appointment. This too was interpreted as a public slap at Strugnell.

While long recognized as a distinguished scrolls scholar, Strugnell's personality had been taking on an increasingly flamboyant nature, to the consternation of colleagues. In recent months he claimed to have been approached in Jerusalem by prostitutes bearing microfilms of a major unknown scroll in the possession of a Kuwaiti merchant who wished to sell it. Other scholars dismissed this claim as fantasy.

He also told colleagues and interviewers of plans to marry a 19-year-old Christian Arab girl and even reportedly told Jewish colleagues that he was planning a kosher wedding meal so that they could partake.

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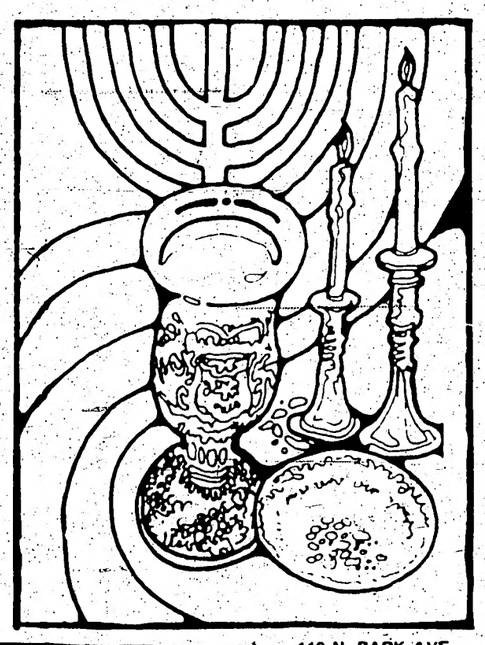

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50 Years Ago

TYPHOID "ENDEMIC JEWISH DISEASE"
BUDAPEST, Dec. 15, 1940 (JTA-By Mail) —
New traffic regulations for Warsaw streetcars and buses have been announced in the Warschauer Zeitung, the Nazi organ in Poland. Streetcars and buses marked Aryans Only may no longer stop to take on or discharge passengers in the Jewish reservations of the city. Streetcars and buses marked Jews Only may no longer make any stops in the non-Jewish sections of the city.

As the same newspaper recently explained, announcing the introduction of the special Jewish streetcars and buses, Jews have been found by the Nazi authorities to be "typhus carriers." This disease, the paper added, has been found to be "endemic among members of the Jewish race."

* * *

1,600 JEWS DEAD IN CAMP
STOCKHOLM, Dec. 20, 1940 (JTA-By Airmail) —
All of the 1,600 Polish Jews imprisoned in the Buchenwald concentration camp in the fall of 1939 have died in the camp, reports smuggled out of Germany have disclosed. The men died principally from exposure and malnutrition. They were obliged to spend the winter months in unheated tents and were not given any blankets. By the spring of this year, 700 had perished and the remainder succumbed this winter.

* * *

BARBED-WIRE AROUND LODZ GHETTO
STOCKHOLM, Jan. 2, 1941 (JTA) —
The Lodz ghetto has been surrounded by a two-metre-high barbed-wire fence, it was revealed by a correspondent just returned from Poland. The ghetto is policed by Jews. It has 46 physicians and four pharmacists.

* * *

BOMB WRECKS DUBLIN SYNAGOGUE
DUBLIN, Jan. 3, 1941 (JTA) —
The first bomb to fall in Dublin in the German air raids on Ireland, over which the Eire government protested to Berlin today, landed in the Jewish quarter in the southern part of the city, razed two blocks of houses and wrecked one of Dublin's largest synagogues. At least seven persons were injured by the high explosive bomb.

* * *

HENRI BERGSON DEAD AT 81
VICHY, Jan. 5, 1941 (JTA) —
The death of Prof. Henri Bergson, world famous French Jewish philosopher, writer, lecturer and Nobel Prize winner, was announced here today. He was 81.

* * *

ROOSEVELT STRESSES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1941 (JTA) —
Worldwide freedom of religion was named today by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his address to Congress as one of the "four essential human freedoms" to which the United States looked forward in the future. The president's address also left no doubt that his conception of an adequate peace included justice to minorities. "We know that enduring peace cannot be bought at the price of other people's freedom," he said.

* * *

3,000 JEWS KILLED IN ROMANIA
BUDAPEST, Jan. 7, 1941 (JTA) —
Romania's so-called "Jewish problem" no longer exists. By New Year's all but a few scattered hundreds of Romanian Jews had been reduced to pauperism in the most successful anti-Jewish blitzkrieg the world has seen to date.

In the opinion of this correspondent, who has just returned from Bucharest, not even Germany can boast such a record as that attained by the Iron Guard in Romania — except possibly in occupied Poland, where the situation is not exactly comparable. Whereas the current plight of the Jews in Poland is mainly the result of military conquest, the plight of the Romanian Jews, which is almost as bad, is the result of an internal campaign which began only six months ago.

The occupation of Bessarabia late in June was the signal for the July pogroms, in which hundreds of Jews were killed. These pogroms were followed by the anti-Semitic code of the Gigurtu government, a series of laws far harsher even than the Nuremberg Laws in Germany. An estimated 3,000 Jews lost their lives between June 28, 1940, when Soviet-Russia sent its ultimatum on Bessarabia, and Jan. 1, 1941. Meanwhile, the Jewish population of Romania has been reduced to 175,000.

ב"ה

Excerpts from a recent address of the Lubavitcher Rebbe Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson Shlita

Each and every Jew is a descendant of our Patriarchs and Matriarchs. He possesses a soul which is an "actual part of G-d". Although he has free choice and can (heaven forbid) choose to act in a manner which does not reflect his Jewish nature, this is merely an external factor that does not affect his fundamental being. What is his essential nature? Who is he or she? A Jew, an "actual part of G-d".

There are times when (may such sorrows never be repeated) G-d's unfathomable ways are reflected in calamities for the Jewish people, as was the case in the Holocaust of the previous generation. However, even then, Heaven forbid to say that the Jews warranted such tragedies because of their conduct and what happened transpired as punishment for their sins. No scales of judgment could ever condemn a people to such horrors. On the contrary, each person who died in the Holocaust is a holy martyr of whom it is said, "G-d will avenge the blood of His servants."

We cannot comprehend why it occurred as it is written. "My thoughts are not your thoughts." One thing is certain: we don't have to - nor can we - explain His actions. Any explanation we give is insufficient for a tragedy of such awesome proportion.

The core of our relationship with G-d is, in essence, positive. G-d loves each and every Jew like parents love an only child born to them in their old age.

It is incumbent upon us to be involved in the Simcha (joy) of bringing thousands of Jews back to their heritage, a phenomenon which has blossomed during the past years. Based on the teachings of Rabbi Akiva that "the totality of the Torah is" - to "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Furthermore, G-d insists on showing His love for His people by redeeming them while they are still in the imperfect state! As we recite in our prayers, G-d will first redeem the Jewish people from all its afflictions. He will redeem them as they are, sins and all. And only after that will He redeem them from all their iniquities.

No one may cast aspersion on, or sit in judgement of the Jewish people, G-d's children. G-d loves them all wherever and however.

Thus, we can surely conclude that this is a time when G-d is preparing blessings for the Jews, including the ultimate blessing, the complete redemption. The Jews - each individual and our people as a whole, are surely worthy of redemption.

For a complete text of the Rebbe's address (available in Hebrew or English) please send a self-addressed and self-stamped envelope to: Chabad Lubavitch of Southern Ontario, 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 3V9.

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Organizations and People

JNF Council is established to serve Kitchener/Waterloo

By
MOURA WOLPERT

KITCHENER/ WATERLOO —

For the first time, a Jewish National Fund Council has been established in Kitchener/Waterloo, reports regional Keren Kayemeth representative, Yigal Yardeni.

The president is Arthur L. Hock, manager of the Seagrams Waterloo whiskey plant. Lawrie Abrams and Dr. Erwin Dumbroff will serve as vice-presidents.

The council launched its activities in the early fall with a High Holy Days campaign, followed by the distribution and collection of blue boxes in November.

For many of the approximately 310 Jewish families here it was the first time they received a blue box and a flyer was sent out explaining its meaning, history and educational values.

Also new is the establishment of a "JNF telephone number," with volunteer Diana Richmond taking care of all JNF business such as taking orders for and sending out of tree cards and certificates, issuing tax receipts, printing and so on.

Richmond can be reached at 519-576-7703 or 519-746-1000.

Previously, Kitchener/ Waterloo's three Hadassah-WIZO chapters took care of the blue box campaigns and tree cards.

Yardeni praised the organization, and especially Queen Esther chapter, "for their help and the wonderful work they have done over the years. The Jewish National Fund is very grateful," he said, adding that he hopes Hadassah-WIZO, whose current president is Lillian Weiss, will continue to remain involved with the JNF.

The JNF number was established, he explained, to facilitate and encourage the purchase of cards and certificates.

Approximately 260 families belong to the Orthodox Beth Jacob Congregation, whose spiritual leader is Rabbi David Levy, formerly of Montreal. President of the congregation is Stephen Kay.

The congregation recently established a day school under principal Cantor Abraham Fisher. Fifteen students are enrolled in the day school, while another 70 students attend Beth Jacob's afternoon Talmud Torah.

Students and teachers have undertaken to plant 1,000 trees in Canada Park and on Tu B'shevat, Feb. 3. Yardeni will be on hand to present certificates. Simultaneously, he said, a plaque will be placed in Canada Park in Israel.

Reform congregation Temple Shalom has 50 member families. Charlie Rothschild is president and a student rabbi from New York comes in once a week for services. Twenty pupils are enrolled in its Hebrew and religious school, which is run by principal Robert Chodos and teacher Andrea Chodos.

Here, too, Yardeni hopes to introduce an active JNF education program.

The Jewish community of Kitchener/Waterloo is active and growing and further JNF activities are being planned. It will probably not be too long, suggested Yardeni, before this community, too, will be able to enjoy having a Negev Tribute Dinner, "the crown of JNF activities in Canada."

Murray B. Koffler, chairman of the Weizmann Institute's International board of governors, H. Thomas Beck, chairman of the board and president of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute and Prof. Menachem Rubinstein, keynote speaker at the Canadian Society's Annual Meeting in Toronto.

Weizmann honors Beck's leadership

TORONTO —

Tom Beck, president of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science from 1985-1990 was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his exceptional leadership at the annual meeting last month. More than 100 supporters attended the annual meeting and brunch.

Prof. Menachem Rubinstein of the department of Molecular Genetics and Virology at the Weizmann Institute informed the meeting of the state of the art research at the Weizmann Institute in the area of biotechnology.

He spoke enthusiastically and optimistically about the future of research at the institute, focussing on the development of therapeutic drugs from compounds produced by our bodies rather than from synthetic compounds.

The following were elected to the board for 1991: H. Thomas Beck, chairman of the board and president; David Dennis, Irving Frisch, Joel Greisman, Hy Isenbaum, Jules James, Morris Kerzner, Donald Loeb, Leo Perkell, Barrie Rose, Dr. Aser Rothstein, Dr. Louis Siminovitch, Marvin Tanner, Sharon Zuckerman, vice-presidents; M. Nassie Godel, treasurer; Dr. Allan Gordon, secretary; Wolfe Goodman, honorary counsel.

Murray Koffler and James F. Kay are chairman emeritus.

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM
seeks a
Full-time Educator

The position of educator at Temple Anshe Sholom offers a rare opportunity for involvement in nearly all areas of synagogue and comunity life.

The educator will be responsible for youth education and programing, adult education and programing and temple and community functions.

For more information contact: Educator Search Committee, Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. North, Hamilton, Ont. L8S 4A1.

The family of the late
Eliazer Davids ז"ל

wish to thank all our relatives and friends for their support and generosity during our recent bereavement.

Mrs. Bertha Davids
Faigie and Leo Davids
Blanche and Jonah Gewirtz

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Organizations and People

Winnipeg shul starts construction on seniors' home

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG —
Mel Hornstein, president of the Rosh Pina Synagogue, described the sod turning ceremony and official start of construction on the Rosh Pina Seniors apartment as "a milestone event in the history of the synagogue and the Winnipeg Jewish community."

Hornstein was joined in the spotlight by Len Podheiser, president of Rosh Pina Seniors Housing Inc; Rosh Pina's rabbi, Judah Kogen, Larry Rice, past president and master of ceremonies for the afternoon; Dorothy Dobbie, Conservative MP for Winnipeg South representing the federal government, which is funding the project; Manitoba's Housing Minister Gerry Ducharme and city councillor Gloria Mendelson.

The project is the culmination of three years of hard work and lobbying by people such as Mendelson, who was actively involved in the project before being elected to City Hall last year, and Manitoba's Conservative senators, Mira Spivak and Nate Nurgitz.

The $4.5-million project is being 100 per cent financed by the government under a special CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) seniors funding program.

Both Podheiser and builder Richard Akman note the Rosh Pina project was the only project in Winnipeg approved by the CMHC under this program this year. Both credit the government's and CMHC's positive response to the five-acre site's park-like setting next to the synagogue.

Akman, whose family firm also built the present synagogue in 1953 and its addition in the mid-1960s, reports the 62-suite seniors block will be ready for occupancy by next fall. The building's exterior will have brick cladding.

A canopy overhanging the entrance will permit picking up and dropping people off under cover. Inside, on the main floor, there will be a multipurpose room, a library/meeting room, hair salon and guest suite. Parking will be provided for all residents.

Podheiser reports there have been over 200 applications thus far for the one- and two-bedroom suites. He notes half the units will be eligible for rent subsidies from the federal government which is contributing $155,000 annually toward operating costs.

The province is providing an initial $5,000 grant and will be contributing 25 per cent of the rent subsidy program.

"We are trying to help Jewish seniors," says Podheiser. "There are a lot of people out there with limited incomes you often don't know about."

Established centre to aid multi-handicapped

BBW Council pays tribute to Baum

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —
It was hard to hold back the tears at the recent 34th Annual Covenant Breakfast sponsored by B'nai Brith Women's Council of Toronto at the Skyline Triumph Hotel.

More than 300 women and a sprinkling of men came to pay tribute to Dr. Nehama Baum, the founder and director of the Muki Baum Treatment Centre, established for the rehabilitation of the multi-handicapped.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in developing the multi-focal approach in the treatment of children and adults who were previously considered untreatable and uneducable, BBW's Council honored the Israeli-born pioneer in her field with the respected Woman of the Year Award.

Baum, who defied doctors to help her son Muki, who has cerebral palsy, has brought hope and optimism to hundreds of families. The Muki Baum Treatment Centre (named for her son), now recognized internationally as a leader in its field, serves a dually diagnosed population who suffer from developmental handicaps and severe emotional or psychiatric disorders.

On receiving the 1990 Woman of the Year Award, Baum said, "I am a person who looks at life with big eyes full of wonder and excitement. I perceive each moment as an experience full of opportunity for learning and growth."

B'nai Brith Women Woman of the Year chairman Pat Wolfson (left) presents award to Nehama Baum.

She credited her son Muki for giving her the inspiration to create the multi-focal approach "as well as providing me with the energy to fight for its implementation and actualization."

She added, "Muki, through his own process, gave me the opportunity to develop and grow as a human being — a human being who has both professional knowledge and, most importantly, knows emotionally."

She thanked her daughter Karni who "reinforced my deep belief in a person's capability to succeed and actualize despite tremendous difficult road blocks," and her other children, Michael, Leeat, Mark and Diana. "Each one of them taught me and is still teaching me about another part of this tapestry we call life."

Thanking other family members, friends and the staff at the Centre, she said, "You believed in my dream and in my ability to make it a reality. You walked alongside me and gave me courage when I walked in the dark."

She paid tribute to her mother "who by giving birth to me, started me on this journey full of wonders" and her husband Moshe Baum, "a man who accepted my ideas and became a part of them. A man without whom I would not have been able to carry this load which at times, feels very heavy and ungrateful."

Linda Mendelsohn, chairman of the breakfast program, welcomed member of the provincial and federal parliament, including Monte Kwinter, Bob Kaplan and Greg Sorbara, and municipal representatives and heads of organizations.

In making the presentation to Baum, Pat Wolfson, Woman of the Year chairman said, "Dr. Baum's story is about a woman whose love of her son was so very intense that it made her fight for him, to insist on a life of stimulation, independence and above all, quality. Her story has touched many lives, to the parents who sought out help, and to the children who now face everyday with dignity and hope."

Some of the other head table guests and those participating in the program who are on the BBW Council of Toronto include Shavie Fagan, president, Fern Sussman, president-elect, Bernice Chaplin and Marni Collier, vice-presidents, Anna Lee Gould, immediate past president, Ruth Rose, consultant, and Wolfson.

Also included were Marcia Gurman, president of BBW Canada, Penny Krowitz, executive director of BBW of Canada, and Metro councillor Howard Moscoe, who brought greetings and congratulated the honoree.

In a moving tribute to Baum, a mother of one of the children at the Muki Baum Centre, Bunny Iskove, a member of the League of Canadian Poets, had her seven-verse poem, A Tribute to Nehama Baum, read to the honoree, which began with:

"You're a very special lady,
And someone we all admire
You have taken all your goals
And with them, did inspire:

With vision and a dream,
You have done the impossible.
Creating program for children
Others claimed were unteachable.

Hamilton's Dr. Sackett to receive Trillium Award

TORONTO —
Dr. David Lawrence Sackett, a noted professor, epidemiologist and clinical researcher has been chosen to receive the Trillium Clinical Scientist Award.

Sackett is the founding chairman of the department of clinical epidemiology at McMaster University school of medicine in Hamilton. He is recognized for his pioneering work in the field of clinical epidemology, the scientific basis for evaluating clinical practice.

He has also developed methods for evaluating patients' risk of disease and assessing the technology and techniques used to treat them.

Sackett will receive a specially commissioned bronze sculpture and a matching lapel pin. McMaster University, as his sponsor, will receive $250,000 for clinical research to be developed under Sackett's guidance.

The Trillium award is presented annually to honor a distinguished clinical scientist, working in Ontario, who has an international reputation for research excellence and contributions to health care.

The award will be presented at the Hart House, University of Toronto, on Jan. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

It is with deep regret that we have learned
of the passing of
JACOB LOWY ז"ל
We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences
to the bereaved family.
Julia Koschitzky, *President*
Phil Granovsky, *Chairman of the Board*
Walter Hess, *Executive Vice-President*
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Organizations and People

What's New

By
MIRIAM HERMAN

DEADLINE NOTES

A reminder that the deadline for What's New and About People is Thursday, two weeks prior to publication date (i.e. Thursday, Jan. 10, is deadline for the Jan. 24 issue and Thursday, Jan. 17, is deadline for the Jan. 31 issue.

Saturday, Jan. 12

SHABBAT STUDY LUNCHEON

Beth Tzedec Shabbat Study Luncheon is taking place Saturday, Jan. 12, at noon following services. The guest speaker, **Dr. Sandra Samuels**, will be discussing Building Self-Esteem: A Pathway to Wellness.

Unpaid reservations cannot be accommodated. For information and reservations, call the synagogue office at 781-3511.

Sunday, Jan. 13

MARCH OF LIVING EXPERIENCES

Aurora Mendelsohn was one of the students who participated in the March of the Living in the spring of 1990 in Poland. She will share her experiences and show slides of her trip on Sunday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Darchei Noam, 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) in the Bathurst-Sheppard area.

This is part of the adult education series sponsored by the congregation. Everyone is welcome.

A JEWISH POLITICIAN

A Jewish Politician Wandering Through Federal and Provincial Politics is the topic **Larry Grossman**, former Ontario Conservative leader, will be discussing at the Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood Breakfast Club meeting on Sunday, Jan. 13.

Services are at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 at the temple, 1950 Bathurst St. Everyone is welcome.

PRAYER AND STUDY GROUP

A small informal prayer and study group is now meeting regularly in members' homes. This is a group for people who are familiar with traditional Jewish prayer and feel the desire for a deeper prayer life.

The group will read and discuss Jewish teachings about prayer and daven Maariv together using the traditional siddur but sometimes in an experimental way. Women and men participate as equals.

The next meeting is on Sunday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome. To arrange to attend or for more information, call **Justin Lewis** at 538-4060.

FRIENDS OF YIDDISH

On Sunday, Jan. 13, Friends of Yiddish is presenting entertainment by popular folk singer **Batsheva** singing Yiddish and international songs.

Breakfast is at 10:30 a.m. at the Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. (just east of Bathurst). There is no charge for members, $5 charge for non-members.

MOSAIC THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Mosaic Theatre Productions is holding auditions for actors and actresses aged 18-65. If you want to act, or want to be part of the Jewish theatre group, come to Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W., on Sunday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.

Scripts for the Odd Couple will be available for you to audition from or you may prefer to audition from your own material. This show will start rehearsals in February and be presented to the public May 4, 5, 11 and 12.

For information, call **Rivka Schechter** at 658-2988.

CUSHION CONCERT

The Cushion Concert on Sunday, Jan. 13, at Roy Thomson Hall for kids eight years and up features a program of highs and lows from opera and art songs in many languages from around the world. Performers are soprano **Valdine Anderson,** bass **Paul Sketris,** and pianist **Sandra Morgensen**.

The time is 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 14

WHAT PRICE FOR FREEDOM?

Beth Tikvah adult education winter semester will focus on the theme The Jew—What Price For Freedom?, featuring an historical and political exploration of the effects of the emancipation on the Jews of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The series begins Monday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. with the topic Eastern Europe — Jewish Emancipation and Disillusionment with **Morton Manilla**. The synagogue is located at 3080 Bayview Ave.

The series continues weekly on Mondays at 8 p.m. through March 4. with **Prof. Arnold Ages, Moshe Sherman** and **Morton Manilla**.

FILM ABOUT SYRIAN JEWS

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood is presenting film maker **Cayle Chernin** who will be showing a film about Syrian Jewry and speaking on this important issue at an open board meeting taking place Monday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. in the Arback Hall of the synagogue, 100 Elder St. Refreshments will be served.

For information, call the synagogue office at 633-3838.

YIDDISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Intermediate Yiddish conversation classes will be held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St., starting Monday, Jan. 14, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for 10 weeks. The cost is $25.

For more information, contact **Bonnie Kates**, coordinator of Yiddish classes for North York Board of Education Continuing Education at the Toronto Jewish Congress Committee for Yiddish, at 635-2883 ext. 155.

JEWISH DIABETES CHAPTER

The Canadian Diabetes Association Jewish Diabetes Chapter is holding a meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Ave.

Guest speaker **Dr. Bernard Zinman**, director of Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Mount Sinai Hospital, will speak on Exercise in Ages and Stages. There will also be exhibits. Everyone is welcome.

For further information, contact **Esther Schwartz** at 782-2176 or **Shirley Glatt** at 225-1989.

MONDAY MAGIC

Come out, listen to interesting speakers, share coffee and experiences with other mothers of young children. Monday MAGIC (Mothers Against Going Incredibly Crazy) will resume weekly Monday morning meetings on Jan. 21. Meetings are held at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St., from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Babysitting is available.

For information, call **Sharon** at 783-7726.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

ISRAEL AND THE GULF CRISIS

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, Generation to Generation Discussion Group is presenting **Benjamin Abileah**, consul general of Israel, who will be discussing Israel and the Gulf Crisis.

The meeting takes place at 8 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor.

LECTURE & DISCUSSION GROUP

The Tuesday morning women's lecture and discussion group, meets at 9:45 a.m. in the board room of Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St. Babysitting is available from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The Jan. 15 session will focus on The Exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel with **Yona Gazit**.

For information, phone **Rhonda** at 663-3812.

HISTORICAL PERSONALITIES

Do not miss this rare opportunity to witness famous historical personalities come to life right at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill.

The first program in the synagogue's adult education series, Historical Personalities Come to Life, will lift Women Historical Personalities off the printed page and offer an insight into what made them so special. This program will be presented by **Rabbi Shaaron Sobel** on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 8 p.m.

The lecture is open to the public. There is a nominal charge.

CELEBRATE JEWISH MUSIC MONTH

Celebrate Jewish Music Month with **Cantor Moti Zingboim** at the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 8 p.m. in the synagogue's Sisterhood Hall, 55 Yeomans Rd.

BEGINNER YIDDISH CONVERSATION

Yiddish classes in North York include Beginners Yiddish Conversation starting Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 2-4 p.m. for 10 weeks at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St. The cost is $25.

For information, contact **Bonnie Kates**, coordinator of Yiddish classes for North York Board of Education Continuing Education at the Toronto Jewish Congress Committee for Yiddish, 635-2883 ext. 155.

SELF-HELP GROUP

HEART (Human Equality Action and Resource Team), a self-help group of divorcing parents, is holding a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Fairview Library, lower meeting room, 35 Fairview Mall Dr.

Guest speaker **Bruce Ally**, of Alternative Counselling Services, will speak on Mediation and Process. Everyone is welcome.

For information, call 286-7661.

INSTALLATION

Celebrating the installation of the third generation, Mollie Colvin (left) as president of Club Ilana, Na'amat, are her grandmother Gert Fein (centre), past president of Chadera Club, and her mother, Louise Cornblum, past president of Club Masada and Toronto Council. [Dale Studios photo]

Wednesday, Jan. 16

SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN THE '90S

Social Activism in the '90s, a lecture series sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada's Institute for International Affairs and the Adult Education Committee of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, gets off to a start on Wednesday, Jan. 16, with Media Response: Keeping the Media Honest — What Is the Role of the Jewish Community with speaker **Howard English**, director of communications, B'nai Brith Canada.

The series continues on Jan. 23 with Lobby Groups: The Ins and Outs of Influencing Government Policy with speakers **Susan Davis** and **Michael Schelew**, and on Jan. 30 with Israel Advocacy: Myths and Realities About the Israel Lobby with **Shira Herzog Bessin**.

All programs take place at 8 p.m. at the synagogue, 100 Elder St. Admission is free and there will be no solicitation. For information, call 633-6224 or 633-3838.

SISTERHOOD HAVDALAH

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood's Havdalah Mini Series, Part I, takes place Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Paul and Ted Orenstein Mezzanine Hall of the synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St.

Learn about the tradition and history in order to enhance the celebration of havdalah with speaker **Marcie Gilbert**. Also, **Dorion** of Dorion Judaica will demonstrate a variety of crafts parents can do with their children. Light refreshments will be served.

Part II will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 4:40 p.m.

For information, call 781-3511.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Lunch and Learn in Retirement meets every other Wednesday at Holy Blossom Temple at noon and is open to the community. There is no charge. Bring your own lunch and coffee and cookies will be served.

The first lecture of the winter series, taking place Wednesday, Jan. 16, features **Prof. David DeWitt**, director of the York University Centre for International and Strategic Studies, who will speak on International Politics, International Conflict.

For further information, call 789-3291.

KABALLAH II

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham's adult education series, Kaballah II, with **Rabbi Avraham Plotkin** continues on Wednesday, Jan. 16, with How to Teach G-d to Our Children — explaining this abstract subject to the genuine minds of our children.

The lecture begins at 8 p.m. at the synagogue, 55 Guardsman Rd., Thornhill. For information, call 886-0420.

TALLIS MAKING

Included in the Yiddish classes offered in North York is Tallis Making — and Its History, which starts at the Faywood Art Centre on Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for eight weeks. The cost is $18 plus materials.

For information, contact **Bonnie Kates**, coordinator of Yiddish classes for North York Board of Education Continuing Education at the Toronto Jewish Congress Committee for Yiddish, at 635-2883, ext. 155.

[Cont'd. on page 23]

MILLION DOLLAR BOND NOTES

These two groups were recently involved as participants in a syndicated purchase of million dollar notes through the State of Israel Bonds organization. The concept of purchasing notes with several credit worthy partners has become quite popular in the last few years. In the picture above are (from left) Hugh Heron, David Friedman, Eddie Weisz, Freddy Guth and Murry Hartzman. Pictured below are (from left) Eddie Weisz, Mrs. Les Goldberg, Earl Linzon, Ernie Bloch and Allan Bloch.

Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 22]

Thursday, Jan. 17

LIBRARY FILMS

Forest Hill Library, 700 Eglinton Ave. W., is screening three films on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 1:30 p.m. The films are *An Introduction* (1983), *Wild in the City* (1985) and *Hundred and Two Mature: The Art of Harry Lieberman* (1980). Admisssion is free.

For information call the library at 393-7706.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Advanced Yiddish Conversation classes begin at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St., on Thursday, Jan. 17, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for 10 weeks. The cost is $25.

Introduction to Yiddish starts Thursday, Jan. 17, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for 10 weeks at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd.

For more information, contact **Bonnie Kates**, coordinator of Yiddish classes for North York Board of Education Continuing Education at the Toronto Jewish Congress Committee for Yiddish, at 635-2883, ext. 155.

And What Else Is New...

A SHABBOS ENCOUNTER

Answering Questions: Questioning Answers, a Shabbos encounter with **Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb**, former professor of philosophy at Johns Hopkins University and author of The Informal Soul, takes place this weekend Jan. 11-12 in the Ohr Somayach Wing of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

It begins with Shabbos dinner at the synagogue on Friday, Jan. 11, followed by a keynote lecture on The Meaning of Contemporary Events. The cost is $20 per person for dinner, children free if registered in advance. Prepaid reservations required.

On Saturday Jan. 12, there is davening at the Education Beginners Minyan at 8:15 a.m. and kiddush featuring Forging the Jewish Nation — Insights Into Parshas Va'era. That evening the melava malka at 9 p.m. features a Seudas Dovid with Italian cuisine, a major address entitled Equality and the Chosen People followed by questions and answers and a kumsitz. The charge for the evening is $8 per person in advance, $10 at the door.

For further information, call 886-5730.

FOREST HILL'S FIRST!

A dynamic group of high school students have set out to revitalize Jewish youth involvement in Forst Hill. The energy emanates from within a small store-front on Eglinton Avenue between a vegetable store and a Chinese restaurant — The Village Shul. There are no marble entrances; no plush velvet chairs, only enthusiasm charged with Jewish energy dusted off from their great grandfather's tallis, no longer stale and abandoned.

This dynamic Forest Hill group invites all Forest Hill Jewish high school students to participate in the first Shabbaton Jan. 11-13. The group promises stimulating and interesting exposure to dynamic speakers and a wide variety of innovative programs. Come out and be a part of the first step of this exciting opportunity!

For information, call **Leora Erez** at 638-8008 or the National Conference of Synagogue Youth Centre (NCSY) at 782-4426.

SCHOOL OF VISUAL ART

The Koffler Gallery School of Visual Art is offering a 10-week course on design and color encouraging individual exploration and discovery through practice with design elements such as line, form, proportion, and pattern development; and color use such as harmonies, contrast, and visual rhythms.

The course runs on Tuesdays from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. with instructor **Carolyn Jongeward**. The fee is $110. For more information, call **Rose Brinder** at 636-2145.

THE ROOTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, presents a four part in-depth seminar series, The Roots and Realities of Anti-Semitism, moderated by **Selma Sage**, beginning Thursday, Jan. 24.

All four stimulating lectures will be held at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., at 8 p.m. These four lectures will cost $30 for the series ($25 for seniors). Single admission, payable at the door will be $10 per lecture ($7.50 seniors). Refreshments will be available.

For further information and registration, call 633-5100.

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

Have a family photo taken for a special occasion or just because it's time! In exchange for a $25 tax deductible donation to the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, professional photographer **Jack Beker** will take a picture of your family group at his studio (Yonge-Steeles) at no additonal charge to you.

Just send your full name, address and phone number, along with your check, to the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, 3089 Bathurst St., Suite 205, Toronto M6A 2A4, and you will receive a voucher for your photo.

ENGAGED COUPLES, PLEASE NOTE

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, 55 Yeomans Rd., extends an invitation to all engaged couples to come to a brunch on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 11:30 a.m. **Connie Beinhaker**, who has expertise in the sensitive field of pre-marital and marital counselling, will be present.

For information, call the synagogue office at 633-5500.

BEACH HEBREW INSTITUTE

Beach Hebrew Institute is looking for a volunteer to conduct services or a program with a Jewish theme for children while their parents are attending services. This doesn't have to be every week. It could even be on the basis of once a month.

For information, call **Arie Nerman** at 967-6379 or **Hava Lusthouse** at 884-5228.

HEBREW AND YIDDISH CLASSES

Hebrew and Yiddish classes will be available at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue starting Monday, Jan. 14. The classes will be held in 10 sessions of two hours each.

The charge is $25. There is no charge for seniors. For more information and registration, call **Helena Isenberg** at 636-3544.

NCJW RICHMOND HILL BRANCH

The National Council of Jewish Women (Richmond Hill Branch) is seeking new members interested in fascinating speakers, community service work, friendship and good times.

For date and time of next meeting, contact **Esther** at 773-0061 or **Shawna** at 886-5554.

DANCING FOR FUN & FITNESS

Ballroom dancing may be your answer to an enjoyable exercise program. A recent study at the University of Western Australia shows that participants on the dance floor achieved more than 80 per cent of their maximum oxygen consumption.

Register now for classes beginning Monday, Jan. 21, at the Jewish Community Centre North Y branch, 4588 Bathurst St. There are special classes for beginners and two left footers. Call the dance office at 631-5659.

MEDINA THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Medina Theatre's first concert reading of the season was a presentation of Hannah by **Elinore Siminovitch**, directed by **Jordan Merker**. A winning play in the 1989 Playwriting Competition sponsored by the Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto Jewish Congress, the program was a co-production of Medina and that organization. Performers were **Anastasia Kokolakis, Fran Biderman, Julie Donahue, E.B. Michael Austin, Ruth Flicht, Alan Bernstein, Eli Lukawitz, John Lundman, Nathan Garnick** and **Roselle Stone**, who was also assistant to the director.

Medina Theatre is open for membership to anyone interested in theatre, on-stage, back stage, or as an audience supporter. New programs will be announced in the new year. For information, call 785-1074 or 633-2057.

PROFESSIONALIZE YOURSELF

Leah Posluns Theatre School, located at 4588 Bathurst St., offers a unique course for the business professional using acting techniques to enhance communication and presentation skills. Gain the competitive edge with Professionalize Yourself.

The winter course begins in February and will run on Mondays for eight weeks from 7-10 p.m. The instructor is actor/teacher **Shawn Levitt**. The cost is $345 plus GST.

Interviews for admission are now being booked for Monday, Jan. 21. For information or to make an appointment, call 636-2720.

SPEAK, READ, WRITE HEBREW

The Keren Hatarbut Institute is issuing a challenge to all you doubters who would like to learn Hebrew but feel it may be too difficult.

You are invited to join the 15-week course beginning Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. The promise is that you will speak, read and write Hebrew by the end of April.

Keren Hatarbut's Jan. 22 ulpanim (Hebrew courses) also include intermediate and advanced classes. The instructor for the beginners' course is **Joseph Klinger**, well-known educator and founder of the Israeli ulpan method in teaching Hebrew in Toronto.

BAYCREST TERRACE SYNAGOGUE

Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave., holds minyan services weekdays at 8:30 a.m. and Mincha, Maariv at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

For information, call 256-1600.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here's a list of interesting youth volunteer opportunities available through the North York Volunteer Centre—

Winter Carnival at Mel Lastman Square — Join the fun and help with the North York Winter Carnival Feb. 9-11. Set up activities, crowd control, information assistant, or serve hot chocolate. This offers lots of fun and group activity. Training is provided.

Childcare Opportunities — Care for pre-school children in community centre while Moms are in a class, morning, afternoon, after school or evenings in the Jane/Wilson area.

Pizza Party/Blitz Canvass — You and your friends can help canvass for donations to help fight heart disease. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada needs volunteers for three hours any day in February during Heart Month. You supply the volunteers. Heart and Stroke Foundation supplies the pizza.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, call the North York Volunteer Centre at 481-6194.

for seniors

The Jewish Community Centre Senior Adult Services Learning Experiences program is featuring **Georgine Nash** on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. at the JCC North Y branch, 4588 Bathurst St. Her topic will be The Challenge of Life in the '90s. There is no charge for members. Non-members are charged 50 cents. For information, call **Teme Kernerman** at 636-1880, ext. 364.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club, 470 Glencairn Ave., announces that ongoing programs offered in conjunction with the North York Board of Education include The World Before Your Eyes Via Armchair Travel to be held every two weeks starting Monday, Jan. 21, at 1 p.m., and Joy of Music with **Ella Krylov** every other Monday at 1 p.m. starting Jan. 14...Upcoming outings include the ballet Sleeping Beauty at the O'Keefe Centre on May 14 and a two-week trip to Switzerland in mid-May with kosher hotels. For information on all activities, call **Lena** at 785-5773 or **Ruth** at 224-5923...Remember the Golden Book to mark special occasions. Your donations go to Lanaido Hospital and Orphanage in Israel. Call **Dorothy Bloomfield** at 787-1526.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club holds a dance every Saturday evening from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the club house. There is no charge for members. Non-members charge is $1...A dance with a live band is held every other Sunday from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre (in the park at Bathurst and Sheppard). The next dance is set for Jan. 20. The cost is $3 members, $4 non-members...Movies are screened in the club house every other Wednesday at 2 p.m. Jan. 23 is the date of the next screening. Admission is free for members, $1 for non-members...Ongoing activities offered in conjunction with North York Board of Education are bridge, ballroom and line dancing and fitness. Other activities are shuffleboard and woodwork crafts. For information on all programs, call the club office at 636-7856.

Canadian Israeli Club Aluma, for Israelis and Hebrew speaking persons 55 and over, meets every Wednesday evening from 7:30-9:30 at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. For information, call **Avner Meiri** at 663-1443 or **Oved Azuri** at 631-9794 or **Gitit Gilran** at 789-5131, ext. 2271.

The JCC Bloor Y branch offers many excit-

[Cont'd. on page 24]

GOTTESMAN HONORED

Rabbi Meir Gottesman receives Certificate of Honor from Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, from Education Committee chairman Sandra Brown. He was one of 10 recipients recognized for service in Jewish education in Ontario small communities. Looking on is Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. [Zephyr Studios photo].

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Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 23]

ing seniors programs. Included are dancing, knitting, bridge, fitness and much more. To find out about these and other programs, call **Nurit** at 924-6211, ext. 36.

At the **Wagman Centre**, 55 Ameer Ave. — 60 and Holding, a nutrition counselling and weight reduction program, begins its next eight-week session on Wednesday, Jan. 23, from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Party Room. The charge is $30 Wagman Centre members, $40 non-members. For information about registration, call 789-5131, ext. 2267...Seniors in North York can order take-out kosher meals from the Wagman Centre. For only $6.25 (Shabbat dinner $8.25) you can have a full-course home-cooked meal. Meals can be prepared salt free, bland, diabetic or regular. To order your meal, go to the Centre and purchase your take-out ticket and bring it to the Food Services office. Meal tickets must be purchased one day in advance. Also, take-out frozen entree meals, soups in two-litre containers, kugles (potato and noodle) are available. Just come and pick them up.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is located at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. The phone number is 225-2112.

An exciting new committee is being formed to plan, develop and implement programs, lectures, day trips and long tours for the senior who is very mobile and energetic. Any senior 55 plus is welcome to call for information about this active program. People interested in either sitting on the committee or attending all future programs must be members of the Centre. The first meeting of the planning committee takes place Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 1:30 p.m. For further information, contact **Barbara Zigler**, coordinator of volunteer services and specialized programs, at 225-2112.

A reminder that La'Briyut Wellness centre's health lecture on relaxation Imagery is set for Thursday, Jan. 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Etrog, an Israeli cultural club for Hebrew speaking older adults, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For information, call **Helen Issenberg** at 225-2112...Etrog is forming a Hebrew choir. If you love singing and are able to participate, contact Helen Issenberg.

A dance with the lively music of the Creative Band is being held Sunday, Jan. 13, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The charge is $3 members, $3.50 non-members.

at the JCC

Registration is being accepted for Just For Kids at the Jewish Community Centre, offering programs through Fitness and Recreation, Aquatics, Community and Family Services, Koffler Centre School of Dance and Related Arts, School of Music, Koffler Gallery School of Visual Art, and the Leah Posluns Theatre School.

In preparation for Rikudiyah Dance Festival for Children, Israeli folk dancing is being held on Sunday afternoons. Call **Elaine Botnick Mann** at 636-1880 for information.

The Dance Program at the JCC Bloor Y branch, 750 Spadina Ave., has just completed a very successful autumn term, the first under its new name, Dance Sous-Sol. The students of the school wrapped things up with not only a week of open classes but a special Chanukah performance for the JCC seniors. Winter term classes are beginning. If you would like information on ballet, jazz, tap or contemporary dance classes for adults and children, call the Bloor Y at 924-6211.

Men's floor hockey is held at the JCC Bloor Y branch on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is $10 per session for JCC members. Come down for some fun and exercise! Call **Lindsay Henderson** at 924-6211 for information.

The JCC North/East Valley branch, 7015 Leslie St., is offering a six-week workshop geared to separated, divorced or widowed individuals. The workshop, entitled Towards a New Beginning, starts Tuesday, Jan. 22 and runs to Feb. 26, from 8-9:30 p.m. Register in advance by calling **Luni** at 889-0813.

Get Fit classes will be held on Tuesdays from Jan. 15-March 19 and Fridays from Jan. 18-March 22 from 9:20-10:20 a.m. at the JCC N/E Valley. After class there will be bagels, coffee and muffins. The cost is $45 once a week or $85 twice a week. For pre-registration and information, call **Luni** at above number.

Pre-natal classes start Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the JCC N/E Valley branch and continue through March 5 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call **Luni** at 889-0813 for more information.

The JCC N/E Valley is starting a new group called Twentysomething (24-35). If you're interested in getting involved, call **Luni**.

The N/E Valley offers adult duplicate bridge for members every Monday evening from 7:30-9:30. The cost is $3 per session. For more information, call **Luni** at 889-0813.

The JCC N/E Valley Singles Network is holding a house party at a member's home on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m. The cost is $5. Call **Luni** at 889-0813 for more information...Singles Network is going skiing on Sunday, Jan. 13. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the JCC North Y branch, 4588 Bathurst St., in the main lobby. Call **Luni** to confirm...A Singles Network dance is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 19, at 8:30 p.m. at the Valley, 7015 Leslie St. The cost is $8 and includes a deejay, refreshments and cash bar...Singles Network is looking for volunteers to help in the planning of programs. If you are interested, call **Luni** at 889-0813.

Call the JCC Singles Hotline at 889-5101 for 24-hour taped information of events at the JCC and around the city.

CERTIFICATE

Professor Avinoam Livne (right) of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's Department of Life Sciences, incumbent of the university's Oelbaum Chair in Applied Biochemistry, receives the distinguished teaching award from Rector Dov Bahat at a recent meeting of Ben-Gurion University's Senate. In 1986 Toronto businessman and community leader Ron Oelbaum initiated a Hypertension and Research Project in memory of his father Sidney Oelbaum. This led to the creation of the Oelbaum Chair dedicated in May 1989.

About People

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The North York Committee on Community, Race and Ethnic Relations has announced the election of **Bernie Farber** as chairman of the committee.

Bernie Farber

Farber brings a wealth of experience to the field of race and ethnic relations. As associate national director for community relations of the Canadian Jewish Congress, he is responsible for liaising with Canada's rich and diverse cultural and minority groups. He serves on the Toronto Board of Education's Race Relations Committee and the North York Committee for Places of Worship.

Farber has developed workshops on racial stereotyping which he has delivered to thousands of students in southern Ontario.

Farber is a citizenship representative and is the immediate past vice-chairman of the North York Committee.

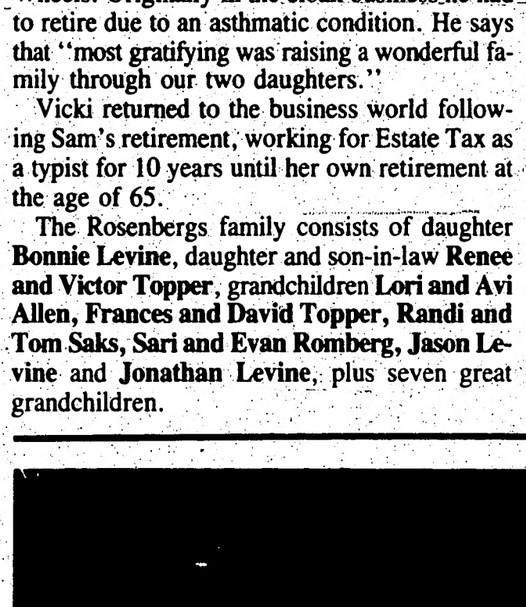
LCBO VP

John Szold marks his first year as vice-president merchandising for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) this month. His career at LCBO follows seven years with Oshawa Wholesalers and five years with Loblaws.

John Szold

Born in Uxbridge, he holds two business degrees, a BA and MBA from York University.

In the general community, Szold is active in the Canadian Foundation of Ileitis and Colitis. He and his wife **Esther** are members of Holy Blossom Temple where Esther sings with the temple choir. They have three children: **Rebecca,** who was a co-op student at The Canadian Jewish News during last year's fall term; **Catharine,** a student at York University; and **Robert,** a student at Earl Haig Secondary School.



Vicki and Sam Rosenberg

A 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Vicki and Sam Rosenberg are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends this Saturday, Jan. 12, at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

Born in Toronto, they courted for four years before they married in 1931.

Sam, who was active in charity drives such as the UJA and in 1947 and 1948 was president of the YMHA lodge, currently drives for Meals on Wheels. Originally in the cloak business he had to retire due to an asthmatic condition. He says that "most gratifying was raising a wonderful family through our two daughters."

Vicki returned to the business world following Sam's retirement, working for Estate Tax as a typist for 10 years until her own retirement at the age of 65.

The Rosenbergs family consists of daughter **Bonnie Levine**, daughter and son-in-law **Renee and Victor Topper**, grandchildren **Lori and Avi Allen, Frances and David Topper, Randi and Tom Saks, Sari and Evan Romberg, Jason Levine** and **Jonathan Levine**, plus seven great grandchildren.

According to daughter Renee, her parents have a joie de vivre and look forward instead of backward. They are energetic and are considered "best friends" by their grandchildren and great grandchildren for whom they babysit.

singles events

Singles Events is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News. ***Deadline is Monday, 5:00 p.m., 10 days preceding issue date.*** *For rates or to place an ad, please call Alan at 422-2528.*

The Jewish Community Centre of Toronto, North East Valley Branch, 7015 Leslie St. Singles Network is throwing a **Snowball Dance**. Saturday, January 19, at 8:30pm. Cost $8.00. D.J. Refreshments. Cash bar. Spot dances. For more information call Luni, 889-0813. 3308

The Jewish Community Centre of Toronto, North East Valley Branch, 7015 Leslie St. is offering a six week workshop entitled **"Towards A New Beginning"**. This is geared to separated, divorced and widowed individuals. From Tuesday, January 22-Tuesday February 28, 8:00-9:30 P.M. To sign up call Luni at 889-0813, before January 15. 3188

The Jewish Community Centre of Toronto, Bloor 'Y' Branch presents the **"Sock & Sweater Hop"**, Sunday, January 20, 1991. 7:00pm at 750 Spadina Avenue, Auditorium, on Bloor subway line at Spadina. D.J., Refreshments, Cash Bar and much more! **$10.00** in advance and at the door. **Bring in your gently used clothing** for our clothing drive. **All clothing will be donated to charity.** For more information, call Nurit at 924-6211. 3203

Beth Tikvah Singles invites you to join us for a fun filled trip to Atlantic City, January 19, 1991. For information call 882-9057. Coming event; Games Night, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Sunday January 27. 3293

CAMP REUNION

Camps Northland and B'nai Brith held their first ever reunion recently at the Sheraton Centre Hotel. Nostalgia and reminiscing via old photos and slides drew past camping buddies together once again. From left are Al Goodman, Michael Berger, Albert Levine, Bill Stern and Norton Longert. [Mollie Rothman photo].

STEELES-COLLEGE DINNER

At the recent Steeles-College Memorial Chapel annual dinner, Rabbi Irwin Witty (centre), executive director of the Board of Jewish Education, receives a check on a pledge of $35,000 for the Board of Jewish Education-Albert Mend Scholarship from Gordon Donsky, president, Steeles-College Memorial Chapel. With them (from left) are Henry Lederman, treasurer; Mike Rogow and Harvey Lister, past president. [Alron photo]

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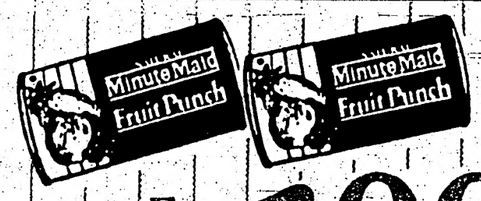

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Organizations and People

Members of Petah Tikvah celebrate the acquisition of a new Sefer Torah. [Alron photo]

Petah Tikva Anshe Castilla members celebrate arrival of new Sefer Torah

By
BILL GLADSTONE

TORONTO —

The acquisition of a new Sefer Torah was a cause for celebration recently at the Orthodox Petah Tikva Anshe Castilla Synagogue in North York.

Finely dressed as if for a wedding, hundreds of exuberant congregants attended the celebration at the Danby Street shul, which is the largest Sephardic congregation in Ontario with a membership of about 450 families.

Before bringing the synagogue's eighth and newest Torah scroll into the building, members of the congregation removed the other seven from the ark and took them outside to the new Sefer Torah.

"We don't let it come in by itself," Rabbi Amram Assayag told The CJN. "We all went out together to give it a proper reception.

To demonstrate that they "are married to the Torah," congregants carried all eight double scrolls inside beneath a chupah, the traditional canopy used in Jewish weddings.

Inside the sanctuary, those carrying the scrolls circled the bimah or pulpit seven times, imitating another marriage ritual.

Each time, the congregation jubilantly voiced songs by Yehuda Levi, Ibn Ezra and Ibn Gabirol, famous Sephardic poets of medieval Spain. Children chased excitedly after wrapped candies tossed from the women's side of the mechitza.

According to Rabbi Assayag, the newest Torah was brought from Israel several months ago, and the congregation waited to introduce it on the festive occasion of Chanukah.

"We do the same thing for seven nights," Assayag said. "It's quite a celebration. We have a similar thing for a bride and groom. After they get married they have the seven days of happiness, the Sheva Berachot. When we do it for the Torah, we call it the Seven Days of Chupah."

Many of Petah Tikva's members live in the Sheppard-Bathurst area and come from the Moroccan city of Tangiers.

Hebrew U. Friends to meet with Soviets during Israel mission

TORONTO —

Edward J. Winant, national president of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, will lead a solidarity mission of Canadian supporters to Jerusalem from Feb. 20 to 27.

The mission coincides with a special meeting of the executive committee of the Hebrew University's international board of governors. Friends groups from around the world will participate in this expression of solidarity with the people and State of Israel.

The program will include a Shabbat dinner with newly-arrived Soviet Jewish students of the Hebrew University; a symposium with university scholars and Israeli political figures on the Persian Gulf crisis; a presentation on aliya to Israel with the country's minister of absorption; an evening of tribute on Mount Scopus to the late Leonard Bernstein with Maestro Zubin Mehta; inauguration of new student dormitories for immigrant and Israeli students; and participation in the Golda Meir Fellowship Fund awards ceremony.

The all-inclusive package cost is $1,370 (double occupancy) and $1,550 (single occupancy) not including airport taxes ($55) and optional flight insurance.

For further information telephone your local office of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University or toll-free 1-800-668-3956.

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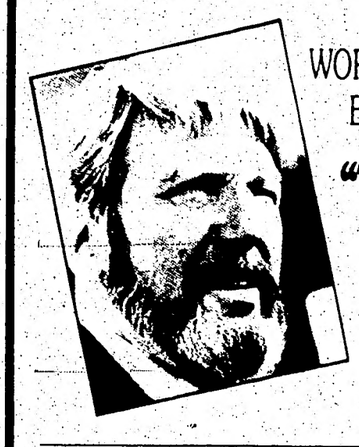

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RECLAIM of PROPERTY in EAST GERMANY

Our Organization is handling registrations of Holocaust survivors or their heirs whose property was confiscated during the period January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945 by the Nazis and had no chance of getting it back, or getting compensation for it, if it was **LOCATED IN EAST GERMANY.**

Registration may also be submitted if the property was returned after World War II but then confiscated once again by the Soviet occupying forces between May 8, 1945 and October 6, 1949.

The categories of properties covered by the law include: real estate, art objects, antiques, bank accounts.

The registration deadline in our Office expires March 20, 1991 - in order to secure at the Justice Ministry in Bonn the formal right of disposal (to sell the property or rent it).

Late registrations are accepted, but restricted only to the proceeds of the sale of property.

For information, claimants may write to the: UNITED RESTITUTION ORGANIZATION, Head Office, 5253 Decarie Blvd., Suite 500, Montreal, Que. H3W 3C3, by phone: 1-514-481-7933 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. till 12 noon.

Ontario residents only: UNITED RESTITUTION ORGANIZATION, 4600 Bathurst St., Suite 321, Willowdale, Ont. M2R 3V2, by phone: 416-630-2920 Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Freedman to maintain role in operation of Pardes Shalom

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —
Sydney Freedman is stepping down after 20 years at the helm of one of the most unique projects in the Jewish communities of the world.

It is Pardes Shalom, the 89-acre cemetery on Dufferin Street north of Toronto, near Maple, operated as a trust for charitable causes by the Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park for the United Jewish Welfare Fund.

It has kept prices for cemetery plots from rising out of sight and provides burial sites both for Jews of all divisions in the religious community and for those unaffiliated with any synagogue, temple or organization.

This was just a dream when Freedman and Ben Schneider, the cemetery's current administrator, got together to discuss the idea when Freedman was president of Temple Sinai.

In fact, the demand for Pardes Shalom plots has grown so quickly, and there is still so much to do, that even though he is stepping down as president, Freedman will continue as honorary life president and plans to be active in that role.

For example, Pardes Shalom expects to finish in the next six months a study of the Toronto Jewish community and its need for cemetery facilities in the future so that vital decisions can be made.

Pending the results of this study, Freedman told The CJN that organizations are being asked to put a temporary "freeze" on their purchases of plots to the extent that they limit themselves to their needs of the next 10 years

As an indication of its unexpected growth, Schneider said the spaces in phase one of the section for unaffiliated people is already full and 150 burials have already taken place in phase two.

Unlike the early times when days would pass before any funeral caravan wound its way up steep Dufferin Street to the Pardes Shalom gates, there is an average of one funeral a day there now.

Freedman, who is also the outgoing chairman of the Ontario Mental Health Foundation, a government post, says running the affairs of a cemtery is unbelievably complicated.

The government requires that substantial sums be put aside for the permanent repair and upkeep of the stones and cemetery. In order to be in a position to buy more land, if required, a sinking fund is maintained.

As Schneider noted, upkeep is not a small item. For example, it cost $250,000 to refurbish the entrance gates and another $250,000 to clear some property at the back of the site.

One of the crucial items of the study, Freedman said, is to find out how soon the present cemeteries will be full and in this calculation, a growing and aging Jewish population must be taken into account.

Looking ahead, many synagogues, temples and organizations have bought sections at Pardes Shalom for their members.

Freedman predicts a good future for Pardes Shalom as long as its contribution to charitable causes is kept in balance with its needs for upkeep and more land.

The outgoing president will be honored at its annual meeting Jan. 13 at the Lipa Green building.

CORRECTION

In the Jan.3 issue of The CJN, Rabbi Moshe Lowy (centre) was incorrectly identified. Here, the spiritual leader of Congregation Agudas Israel of Toronto receives the Alumnus of the Year Award from Rabbi Chaim Schmelczer, dean of Telshe Yeshiva-Chicago. With the rabbis is Mrs. Lowy.

Goldmintz new president of Jewish Brotherhoods' council

TORONTO —
Ben Goldmintz, from Adath Israel Men's Club, was installed as president of the Council of Jewish Brotherhoods of Toronto and Vicinity at the organization's recent breakfast.

Other officers elected at the recent meeting, held at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, include Larry Rachlin, from Beth Tzedec Men's Club, as first vice president; Emil Bienstock, from Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Men's Club, as second vice president; Michael Cole, from Holy Blossom Brotherhood, as third vice president; Robin Benmergui, from Petah Tikva Ashe Castilla Brotherhood, as treasurer; Joel Miller, from Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood, as corresponding secretary; and Julius Bell, from Beth Shalom Synagogue, as recording secreary.

David Kaminker, from Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood, is immediate past president.

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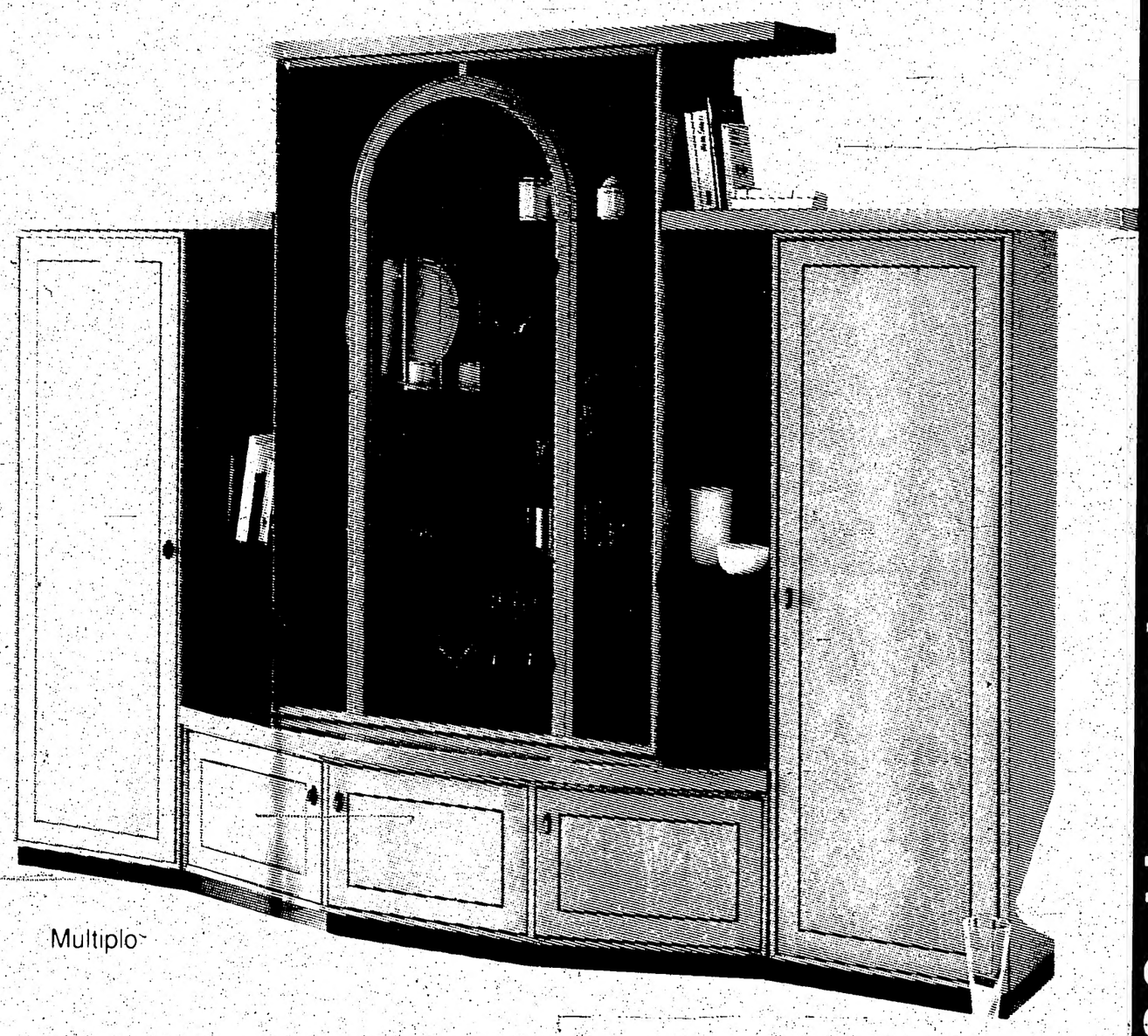

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Organizations and People

Unique projects created

Associated students display knowledge at Science Fair

By
FRANCES KRAFT

"Everybody's a winner" at Associated Hebrew School's annual Grade 8 Science Fair, according to Jerry Rosenfield, junior high principal at the school. About a dozen of the 97 projects received gold prize ribbons, but Rosenfield was reluctant to single out any of the participants.

"The most important reward is that of having learned and been able to work independently," but there will be specific prizes awarded later in the year.

Each of the 156 Grade 8 students at Associated's Neptune and Danilack branches did a project for the Science Fair, either individually or in pairs. This year's fair took place in December at the Neptune branch. The projects were all based on the scientific method, which has been stressed since the first day of Grade 7 science.

Each experiment began early in the school year with a hypothesis which had to be approved by the teacher. (There are two Grade 8 science teachers: Saul Morganstein and Joe Liebovitch, who is also science chairman and who initiated the Science Fair about 12 years ago.)

After their hypotheses were approved, the students conducted the experiments at home, then brought the project to school to present to their peers before displaying them at the Science Fair.

For Mark Fischer, a student at the Danilack branch, the class presentation was one of the best and most instructional aspects of the experience. "It got us able to talk in public."

"We had fun and we learned a lot," said Dahlia Ben-Dat. She and her friend Eliana Schneider put in long hours researching and experimenting, as did all the students.

Talma Pasternak, whose daughter Shiri tested the effects of car exhaust on pieces of fruit, confirmed that the students "worked very hard. A lot of kids stayed up till one or two o'clock."

About 500 people — parents, friends, and Grade 7 students who are thinking ahead — turned up at the Science Fair to see the fruit of all that hard work.

One of the most impressive projects was "Say Ahh" by Lisa Nagel and Julie Rutitsky, the purpose of which was to test the effectiveness of different mouth washes. Nagel scraped plaque from her mouth with a Q-tip and placed it in different locations in an agar dish.

The girls observed bacteria growing for eight days, then applied a variety of mouth washes to see if they inhibited the bacterial growth. Of the brands they tested, Listerine and Cepacol worked the best.

Nagel and Rutitsky figure they put in "seven or eight full Sundays" including research, typing up their findings and preparing the artwork for an attractive presentation.

Mark Fischer and Aaron Kohn's project elegantly and simply demonstrated one aspect of the scientific method — the need to change one variable at a time in order to observe its effect. They purchased three (virtually) identical houseplants, one of which received no fertilizer, another of which received the recommended amount and the last of which was given more than the recommended amount.

The results were predictable but striking. The methodology involved recording the largest and smaller leaves on each plant as well as taking weekly pictures to record the plants' progress.

Sharrona Pearl's project had less predictable results. She compared homemade and store bought cleaners. In a classroom demonstration, students were divided as to which cleaners were more effective, leading Pearl to conclude that such homemade cleaners as diluted vinegar or baking soda and water clean as well as any mixture of chemicals you buy in a store. "They're cheaper, and they're safer," she said.

Concluded Rosenfield, "It (the Science Fair) is such an educational process. It's one of the highlights of the year."

Lisa Nagel and Julie Rutitsky tested the effectivness of different mouthwashes at the Associated Hebrew Schools Science Fair. [Frances Kraft photo]

Poles, Jews unite at Chanukah party

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG —

Winnipeg's Polish community and Jewish Winnipeggers came together last month for a Chanukah party at the Rosh Pina Synagogue.

Some of the Polish-Canadians lit the candles. Rabbi Judah Kogen spoke of the history and traditions of Chanukah and invited the Polish members of the audience to come up to the bimah.

He took out and showed them a Torah scroll and gave them a guided tour of the sanctuary. "They were curious and asked a lot of good questions," says Jack Shnoor, one of the Jewish participants.

Abe Arnold, acting chair of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, and
Zofia DeWitt, president of the Manitoba Polish Congress, spoke about the history of their respective peoples in Canada and Lyle Smordin, national vice-president for B'nai Brith Canada, spoke of the Supreme Court ruling on the Keegstra case.

The Chanukah program was the first fruit of an ongoing Jewish-Polish dialogue begun last summer in reaction to the Jewish March of the Living in Poland last spring.

Stung by reports in the Winnipeg papers of anti-Semitic incidents and subsequent remarks by the participants about Polish anti-Semitism, Ted Sosnowski, publisher of the year-old magazine, Polonia Voice, wrote an editorial calling for dialogue and understanding between Poles and Jews.

The League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada's Manitoba Region took up Sosnowski's invitation.

"That first meeting with Lyle (Smordin) Gabe Broder and Murray Trachtenberg of B'nai Brith was a sort of feeling-out session," says Sosnowski. "I detected some resentment. But everything has moved along quite nicely from there and I feel we are on the road to a successful dialogue. A lot has been accomplished in a short time."

The next program will be some time early in the new year, probably at St. John Cantius Church in North Winnipeg. As well, the committee meetings, five so far, will continue.

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January 28 - Prof. Arnold Ages
France: From Dreyfus to Vichy to French Jewry Today
February 4 - Prof. Arnold Ages
Germany: The Paradox of German Jewry From Fatherland to Holocaust to Germany Today
February 11 - Dr. Moshe Sherman
The Jewish Thinker: Moses Mendelssohn - Traditionalist or Innovator
February 18 - Dr. Moshe Sherman
The Jewish Thinker: Immanuel Wolf - The Science of Judaism - New Study of the Jewish Past
February 25 - Dr. Moshe Sherman
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Organizations and People

ASI presents recreational equipment to IDF personnel

Canadian group helps make soldiers' lives easier

MOUNT HERMON — "Since the day that the Canadians visited us, (early October), life in the outposts has dramatically changed," remarked the commander of Israel's forces on Mount Hermon.

He made these remarks to members of the Association for the Soldiers of Israel who presented recreational equipment to the soldiers serving on "the eyes of Israel," as the Hermon is called.

Each of the smaller outposts received a specially made-to-order box containing a TV set, a video recorder, radio, books and video movies. Each box bore a plaque reading: "Presented to the soldiers serving on Mount Hermon by the Toronto Branch, Association for the Soldiers of Israel."

In October, a delegation from the Toronto branch made a special trip to Israel to select the projects which would be most beneficial to soldiers serving in the IDF. The delegation consisted of Jack Muskat, Mickey Baratz, Irving Buchbinder and Irving Matlow.

The group was asked to visit the army installations on Mount Hermon, as the soldiers there required particular attention before the winter set in.

The installations on Mount Hermon contain secret and sensitive intelligence gathering equipment, covering Syria and parts of Lebanon. From this mountain one can see the suburbs of Damascus and the airport landings with the naked eye.

During the Yom Kippur War, Mount Hermon was captured by the Syrians with a loss of 12 IDF soldiers. Ninety-six Israeli soldiers were killed in retaking the mountain.

There are several large installations at the top — most of the equipment and the living quarters are built inside the mountain. Narrow, metal framed corridors link the various working and living quarters. The soldiers in these larger installations are more comfortable than those serving in the small outposts strategically situated along the mountain side.

Snow-capped Mount Hermon (at the north-eastern corner of Israel), is the highest mountain in Israel and the site of the only ski-run in Israel. All vehicles have access up to the parking lot, which is halfway up the mountain. Only military vehicles are allowed above this spot.

The ski lift raises you several hundred metres above the parking area — the IDF installations are much higher. During the winter, the road may be closed even to military vehicles continuously for a week or even 10 days because of the snowfall.

Snow removal tractors and army half tracks are kept at the ready to keep roads open to the main installation on the mountain top.

The main mountain top installation is never isolated for more than 10 days in the winter. Other points on the top and all the outposts on the mountain side may be cut off for weeks on end. A cable car has been built to connect two large installations when snow makes the road impassable.

The smaller outposts are completely isolated when the snow lies deep. For the soldiers serving on the Hermon, a short leave, a day, an evening, is a rarity. Soldiers are required to serve long periods without a break — in isolated and uncomfortable conditions.

The Toronto branch was asked for financial help to supply these small outposts with recreational equipment — to make the soldiers' life there a little easier. The branch was asked to help the larger installations make the living and dining conditions more comfortable.

The Toronto branch readily accepted the responsibility. Beside the box with the TV, VCR etc., the larger points had the dining room refurnished and redecorated — the club room was made more comfortable and TV's and videos were purchased for them. On the base camp, the girls serving at headquarters had their quarters redecorated.

The gifts to the units on Mount Hermon were presented in November.

It is with deep regret that we have learned of the passing of

BEN MILNER ז"ל

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family.

Julia Koschitzky, *President*
Phil Granovsky, *Chairman of the Board*
Walter Hess, *Executive Vice-President*
Officers and staff of the United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc.

Shaare Zedek research aids babies

JERUSALEM — A team from Shaare Zedek Medical Centre — Drs. R. Achiron and M. S. Schimmel, and Professors A. Eidelman and Y. Diamant — has published a paper in the Israel Journal of Obstetric Gynecology entitled Intrarectal Balloon Catheter for Ultrasound Assessment of Uterus and Ovaries in Neonates with Ambiguous Genitalia.

The research, undertaken to help determine the sex of newborn infants with ambiguous gentilia, involves a new technique described as very simple and easy to perform.

An intrarectal balloon catheter is inserted into newborn infants, without waiting for a full bladder, in order to facilitate the identification of the internal sex organs and to determine anatomical landmarks of pelvic organs.

When a baby is born in this situation, the physician is pressured to make a rapid diagnosis because of the parent's natural anxiety to know whether their child is male or female.

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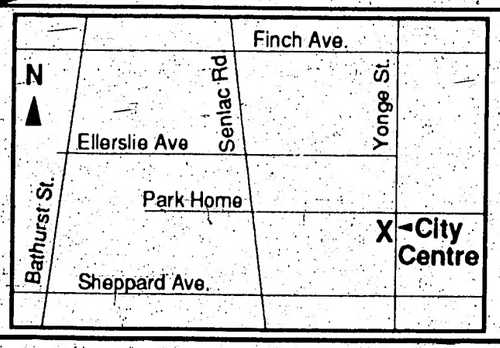

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Organizations and People

Sukhodolsky trains Hebrew teachers

VAAD member fears anti-Semites

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —

The thing that frightens Ilya Sukhodolsky the most is that anti-Semitic forces know the addresses of Jews in every large city in the Soviet Union.

"The notices about pogroms supposed to happen last May were delivered only to the mailboxes of Jewish tenants," said Sukhodolsky, a member of VAAD, the new central organization of Soviet Jews, on a visit to Toronto.

"A pogrom is possible," he said. "Maybe not soon, maybe next year if conditions do not change, but any day now."

Sukhodolsky, who trains Hebrew teachers in Moscow, spoke recently to the Jewish Professional Development Institute at a luncheon sponsored by the Berman Fund.

On the basis of his work as a volunteer at the Israel consulate in Moscow where Soviet olim are processed, Sukhodolsky said one of every three people leaving the Soviet Union for Israel is not Jewish. Some of the non-Jews may be members of Jewish family units, he said.

He said some of the non-Jews are getting their visas on counterfeit documents, declaring that one of every 10 documents received at the Consulate is proven to be counterfeit, and this does not take into account those counterfeit documents not discovered.

Passports with false declarations that the bearer is Jewish can be obtained from some Soviet police stations for $1,000, he said.

He knows of non-Jews who were circumcized to facilitate getting a visa for Israel.

When asked why non-Jews would go to such lengths to get to Israel, Sukhodolsky said: "The situation is terrible. The stores are only open for two hours because they do not have enough food to sell, people are afraid there won't be anything to eat in another few months."

In June, 1,500 exit visas a day were being issued at the Israel consulate, and this has fallen to 700 a day. "Because of the crisis in the Gulf some people are saying this is not the right time to go to Israel," he declared.

But the growing anger of the Soviet people being directed against Jews makes the situation for Jews staying in the country "extremely dangerous," he said.

Sukhodolsky said a KGB general has published a book in the Soviet Union confirming that it was the KGB (Soviet security police) which incited anti-Semitism to encourage Jews to leave for Israel and to make them scapegoats.

Sukhodolsky said he has been confronted on the streets by people who tell him: "You are Jewish, go home to Israel. You are eating our food."

It is inevitable, Sukhodolsky said, that one day the Soviet government will slam the door shut on Jews leaving for Israel.

"I don't see a future for Jews in the Soviet Union," he said.

One sign that it is not as easy for Jews to leave Russia is that it now takes six months to a year for them to get permission, compared to two months at the beginning of 1990, he said.

Hebrew teachers have been sent from Moscow to 50 cities, he said, and an association of Hebrew teachers which had only 35 members four years ago now has 1,500 members.

Rabbi Irwin Witty, director of the Jewish Board of Education, who introduced Sukhodolsky, said there is now a Hebrew teacher in every Jewish community of any significant size in the Soviet Union.

Sukhodolsky also spoke at a fund-raising function for Orah, Toronto's special school for Jewish children from the Soviet Union.

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Topic: *"On Becoming Jews"*
The Second Temple Period

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9:00 a.m. - Shaharit Services
9:45 a.m. - Breakfast
Topic: *Daily Life in Ancient Israel*
An illustrated lecture dealing with our knowledge of the Daily Life of Ancient Israelites based on the latest archeological discoveries.

Patti Starr trial set for Mar. 18

[Cont'd. from page 2]

Bait Corporation, the name given to the NCJW Toronto section's capital fund, and then issued a receipt in the name of Patricia Starr.

Flicht's trial is scheduled for April 17, but his lawyer, Tim Danson, is trying to have the charges withdrawn.

Starr is charged with 33 counts under the Election Finances Act.

Her trial on the charges will begin March 18. The maximum fine for violating the act is $1,000 on each count.

Starr is also charged with 11 counts of fraud, breach of trust and uttering forged documents. The preliminary hearing into those charges is scheduled to get under way April 22.

The NCJW (Toronto section) is also charged with 26 counts of violating the EFA. It will go on trial April 2.

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Seeking assistance from local businesses

JVS striving to help settle Soviet Jews in Toronto

By
GIL KEZWER

TORONTO —

The arrival of 1,000 Soviet olim in Israel daily has overshadowed the immigration of 1,000 Soviet Jews to Canada in 1990. But newcomers, whether to Tel Aviv or Toronto, have the same needs — housing, language courses and employment.

Initially, the job of finding jobs for the new Canadian Jews fell on the Jewish Vocational Service, a Toronto Jewish Congress beneficiary agency [CJN Feb 1]. But the two full-time staff in the JVS's placement centre soon found themselves inundated with applicants.

In May, TJC provided the JVS with a $57,000 grant to hire a Russian-speaking vocational counsellor to organize employment strategies workshops, as well as aid clients in placements [CJN Dec. 13].

Now TJC is taking its employment campaign directly to local businessmen known from the United Jewish Appeal's 35,000-name roster. Following recent discussions with the JVS, a Jobs Now committee was struck to canvass UJA supporters with employer potential.

Chaired by David Freedman, a distributor of engineering products and equipment, the Jobs Now committee includes Elliot Eisen, president of the JVS; David Hertzman, chairman of TJC's integration sub-committee; Ted Sokolsky, the UJA's associate campaign director; Bernie Berger, director of JVS; and Jeremy Cohen, TJC's senior planning associate.

In order to avoid duplication, the committee is coordinating its effort and client list with JVS, the Jewish Immigrant Aid Service and Kesher — an employment services agency for Orthodox Jews.

Jobs Now is currently recruiting 50 volunteers to blitz some 1,600 UJA donors whom they have targetted. The networking and telephoning is set to begin Jan. 7.

The canvassers will be looking to aid 250 unemployed Soviets from a list of JVS clients. The Soviets, predominantly male, have a wide range of training, Freedman says, from mechanics to engineers. Many recognize they face changing professions, he says, and will accept any work.

"Our job is fishing," he explains. The JVS will then match up candidates with job offerings.

A hard-nosed salesman, Freedman is taking a pragmatic look at the campaign to drum up jobs during the current recession.

"We recognize we're in a period when people are being laid off."

But he is optimistic businessmen will see the job appeal as more than just a mercenary decision.

"We're looking for people to look in their hearts and not only at the bottom line."

Freedman views the Soviets as a great talent pool. Hiring a skilled professional anxious for his first Canadian work experience — at a competive wage to that an equally qualified Canadian would expect — could be mutually advantageous, he notes.

And what if the jobs don't materialize?

Freedman warns, "It's a job that has to be done. If we don't do it, the financial responsibility will come back to the community."

For more information about Jobs Now, contact Jeremy Cohen at (416) 635-2883.

Eitz Chaim Schools, Shaar Shalom to improve access for disabled

TORONTO —

Elaine Ziemba, minister of citizenship with responsibility for disabled persons and senior citzens, has announced special Access Fund grants of $1,152,314 which included $36,671 to North York's Eitz Chaim Schools to construct an exterior ramp and lift, make three washrooms accessible, and designate two accessible parking spaces.

Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill also received $27,500 to install an elevator.

This allocation is part of the government's $700-million commitment to a significant renewal of public infrastructure as announced in Treasurer Floyd Laughren's Economic Statement.

"We are addressing two important challenges with one stroke," said Ziemba. "The jobs we're creating will help to counter some of the hardships of the recession, and at the same time we're creating facilities that will enable persons with disabilities and senior citizens to better share in community life."

To begin to create jobs immediately, $41-million has been approved for projects that can be started very soon. These projects, which are the direct responsibility of seven provincial ministries, do not depend on other partners for activation and can proceed despite winter conditions.

The seven ministries are: attorney general; culture and communications; colleges and universities; natural resources; transportation;tourism and recreation; and the office for disabled persons.

Through the Access Fund, the job creation initiative will fund 39 projects province-wide that make public and community buildings more accessible to persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

In addition to the job creation allocation, Ziemba announced a further $411,000 in Access Fund grants from the offices of the disabled persons' and senior citizens affairs' regular allocations to 16 province-wide projects.

Grants are provided for renovations which increase accessibility to community meeting facilities, including improved access for persons using wheelchairs, visual alert systems for persons with hearing impairments, and braille and other tactile features for persons who are visually impaired.

Depending on eligibility, organizations receive either 50 or 75 per cent of the cost of renovations up to a maximum provincial contribution of $50,000.

The next deadlines for applications in 1991 are April 1, July 1, and October 1.

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WINTER SCHOLARS SERIES

Professor Aurel Braun
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Organizations and People

Orah program trains both

Soviet father, son celebrate double bar mitzvah

TORONTO — When Boris Sherman arrived in Canada from the Soviet Union in the summer of 1988 with his wife, Larissa, and his 10-year-old son, Maxim, he had virtually no experience of Jewish heritage and traditions and certainly no knowledge whatever of the Hebrew language.

If someone had told him at that time that in a little over two years he would be joining his son in synagogue on a Shabbat to chant his Haftorah as part of a double bar-mitzvah ceremony, Boris might have laughed out loud at the idea.

Yet on Shabbat, Parashat Vayechi, December 29, in Congregation Bnai Torah in Willowdale, Boris and Maxim rose to the bimah to sing the weekly Haftorah reading in celebration of their acceptance of the responsibility of Jewish adulthood. In so doing, they took their places as part of the age-old community of participating Jews.

Shortly after arriving in Toronto, the Shermans were advised by the Jewish Immigrant Aid Service of the options of Jewish education available in the city. From among the day school and supplementary school programs available in the city, the Shermans found one particularly interesting: Orah, an all-day Sunday program for children from the Soviet Union, sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education and the Association of Soviet Jewry in Canada. Although Maxim had received no previous Jewish education, he found the classes interesting and the staff responsive and sympathetic to the educational needs of a young man newly arrived to the country.

During Maxim's second year at Orah, Rabbi Yosef Michalowicz, the school's principal, invited the Shermans to meet with him to discuss plans for Maxim's bar mitzvah, still more than a year away.

It is Orah's policy to prepare its students for bar mitzvah, if they so wish, and Rabbi Michalowicz informed the Shermans of that policy and offered to be of help, not only in teaching Maxim his brachot and his Haftorah, but in helping to make arrangements with any one of a number of synagogues in the area.

During this discussion, Rabbi Michalowicz offered Boris a more active role than father of the bar mitzvah: Orah would be pleased to train father, as well as son, for bar mitzvah and to assist in whatever preparations might be necessary. After some consideration, Boris accepted.

Work started immediately. Each Sunday, Boris, who knew no Hebrew, would come to the Orah school, whose classes are held in the Patricia Avenue branch of the Eitz Chaim Schools. Here, he and his son would meet with Lawrence Weinberg, junior teacher of Maxim's class, who taught Boris the basics of Hebrew reading and then trained and coached both father and son in the reading of their Haftorah.

In the meantime, Rabbi Michalowicz introduced the Shermans to Rabbi Raphael Marcus, spiritual leader of Congregation Bnai Torah, a synagogue which has been a long-standing supporter of Orah. Rabbi Marcus was pleased to offer the help of Bnai Torah to the Shermans for their bar mitzvot and several meetings were held with Rabbi Marcus to plan the details.

Boris Sherman (left) with Rabbi Yosef Michalowicz and Maxim Sherman.

For a year, father and son continued to prepare for the bar mitzvot. During this time, Boris returned to school to upgrade his job skills, and his wife, Larissa, found that the bar mitzvah preparations helped him.

"The bar mitzvah is very important to him," she said. "He is very excited about it, and it has given him enormous spiritual courage and energy."

Rabbi Michalowicz noted that Boris' preparation for bar mitzvah served to inspire Maxim in his own preparation. "There is no better encouragement for a student," said Rabbi Michalowicz, "than the involvement of a parent."

In the end, the bar mitzvot of Boris Sherman and his son, Maxim, was an overwhelming success. Both father and son performed beautifully. Rabbi Michalowicz, speaking in honor of the occasion, noted that congregation had an opportunity to see before their eyes the fulfilment of the words of the prophet Malachi: "And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of children to their fathers."

Joining in the congregation to participate in the simcha were members of the Orah staff and of its board, as well as parents and students of the Orah school.

The Shermans, for their part, are grateful to the Jewish community of Toronto whose agencies and institutions have made such a difference to them; to Rabbi Marcus, the board and membership of Bnai Torah, and, especially, to the Orah school which has helped to prepare them, not only for the bar mitzvot of father and son, but for the participation in Jewish heritage which those bar mitzvot represent.

Service was held at Bnai Torah

Historical society to debate its future at annual conference

[Cont'd. from page 2]

treal's David Rome on his 80th birthday. Prof. Richard Menkis of UBC is editor-designate.

Also coming up is the CJHS annual conference this year from June 5-7 at Queen's University in Kingston. There will be a joint session with the Canadian Historical Association on Teaching the Holocaust in Canadian Universities and High Schools chaired by Irving Abella.

The speakers will be University of Toronto professor Michael Marrus and high school education consultants Frank Bialystock. Among the other sessions planned are Jews in the labor movement and Jewish women in Canadian history.

At that time the future of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society will be discussed, including a broader mandate beyond history, a new editorial policy to make the CJHS Journal a more scholarly publication, and proposals for special projects. New officers will also be elected and other business discussed.

For the moment, staff assistance for the CJHS is being provided by Janice Rosen, CJC archives director, in Montreal, and Esther Slater, executive secretary, the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, and Naomi Lander, secretary to the executive director of the Winnipeg JCC.

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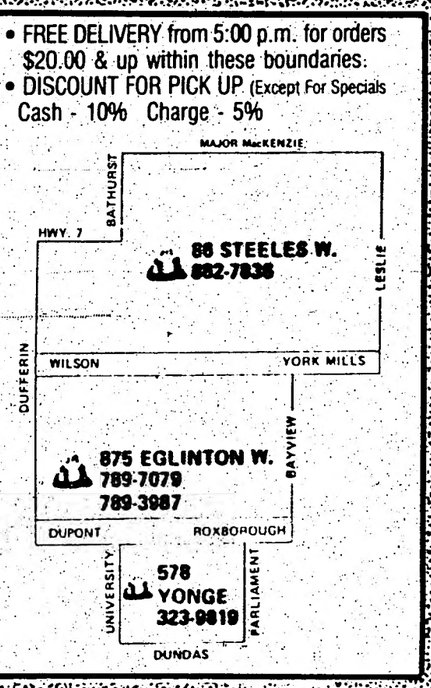

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Fashion

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Firm's accessory is right on the button

By
STEPHANIE CHAPMAN

TORONTO —
Through the years, consumers have become acquainted with stylish eyewear, neckwear and footwear, and now, for the first time, the fashion conscious are able to buy buttonwear.

The product arrived in Toronto a little more than six months ago thanks to the efforts of Laurel Cohen, designer and manufacturer of the product sold through her company, Buttonwear.

—Conveniently set on eye-catching art-deco postcards, Buttonwear slips over ordinary buttons to give a wardrobe an entirely fresh look.

Simply snap open the chosen style of Buttonwear and slide the back part under the existing button, then snap shut. Cohen said she has between 40 and 50 styles from which the consumer may choose.

Cohen said she has been involved in the fashion industry for the past 10 years. It began when she enrolled in George Brown College's apparel management course.

Over the years, Cohen has held a variety of retail positions and a number of manufacturing and management jobs. She started out working in apparel and then moved to the accessory business.

"I first came across the idea of button clips about two years ago when I was in New York. I loved them and could barely wait for the product to reach Canada. I guess it was about a year ago when I saw them again, but this time, I was tired of waiting," Cohen said.

As her business is about half a year old, she said that the product has only been available in stores for a few months. Consequently, Cohen said it's too soon to judge the reaction to the product. However, she added she is expecting sales to boom.

Slip under existing button, snap and away.

Promotes creativity

In all, each postcard carries five button clips and each card is varied in both style, color and size. Cohen said the product is presented in this fashion to allow for individual creativity. The customer has the option of mixing and matching. One person may choose to alternate the varying sizes of the buttons, while another may opt for alternating the colors.

Cohen said that while some styles that are geared specifically to a particular season (the holiday styles are fancier and glitzier), most are adaptable.

She added that the type of person who would buy Buttonwear is one who is creative and likes to be fashion forward. She added that while the majority of styles are for women, some are suitable for men. She said this also depends on personal taste and the type of man.

Buttonwear has entered the Canadian market at precisely the proper time. As the effects of the economic downturn are felt throughout the retail industry, Buttonwear comes to the aid of those women who hate to wear the same clothes.

Cohen said that within a tight economy, women have the option of taking last year's blouses and giving them a new look.

To date, the Toronto native is mainly selling to independent stores and boutiques. In the future Cohen hopes to see her product in denim stores. As this current trend is growing, Cohen said she has designed some unique silver button clips that would be great accessories for denim.

Cohen said that while starting her own business within the fashion industry has been tough, she has found the experience enjoyable. She added that the dreams of grandeur are taking a lot longer coming true than she had anticipated.

For those who are considering a career in the fashion sector, Cohen said perseverance is one of the keys to success.

"I have many people who give me pats on the back for starting a business now, but unfortunately, I also find that a lot of retailers are closing their doors."

These are just some of the unusual buttons Laurel Cohen designs and manufactures.

Stay-ups latest trend in legwear

By
SHARI SCHWARTZ

No, they're not like what your grandmother used to wear. They're stockings with style and they're making a huge comeback this winter, says a vice-president of Wertex Hosiery Inc.

The fashion trend for winter in legwear is stay-ups and lace-top stockings, says Archie Goodman. Wertex has been manufacturing and distributing legwear and bodywear across Canada and the United States for more than 40 years. The company's legwear lines, which include Silky Legs, Wertex, Gloria Vanderbilt, Jaclyn Smith and Legissimo, are available at department and specialty stores across Canada.

Stay-ups can be affixed with a garter belt or have a special band which allows them to adhere to the leg.

"Younger women find stockings very interesting because most have never wore them before."

This season Wertex introduced a new line of "environment-friendly" cotton tights, Lady Cottonaire, packaged in recycleable paper without plastic. "The natural fibres we use in these tights lets the legs breathe which makes them more comfortable to wear."

The sleek, evening look in legwear is best exemplified by the Gloria Vanderbilt line where black is back. Swan, heart and baroque motifs grace the ankles of Gloria Vanderbilt pantyhose. A jewelry theme is also popular with crystal patterns featured on the ankles.

Fashion-forward, ultra sheer legwear always catches the attention of women because, "it is very delicate and gives a hint of color to the legs." Ultra Sheer Perspective Non-Run pantyhose are specially stitched to prevent a hole from running and are available with a 30-day guarantee.

Capris, footless tights with lace trim at the ankles, make a true fashion statement this winter. They are usually worn underneath a skirt and come in a variety of colors such as black, navy, magenta, aubergine, linen and teal.

Sesame Street and Barbie tights and socks featuring all the popular characters are also available this winter for girls ages infant to 10 years.

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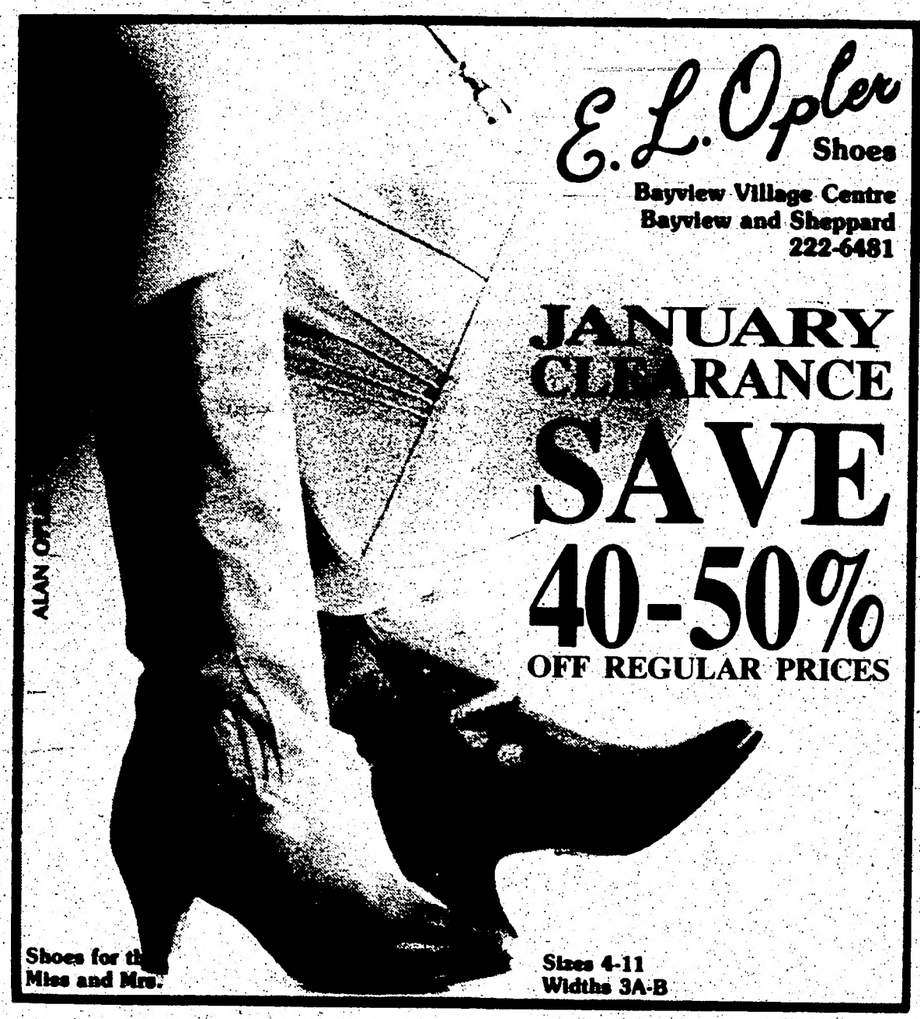

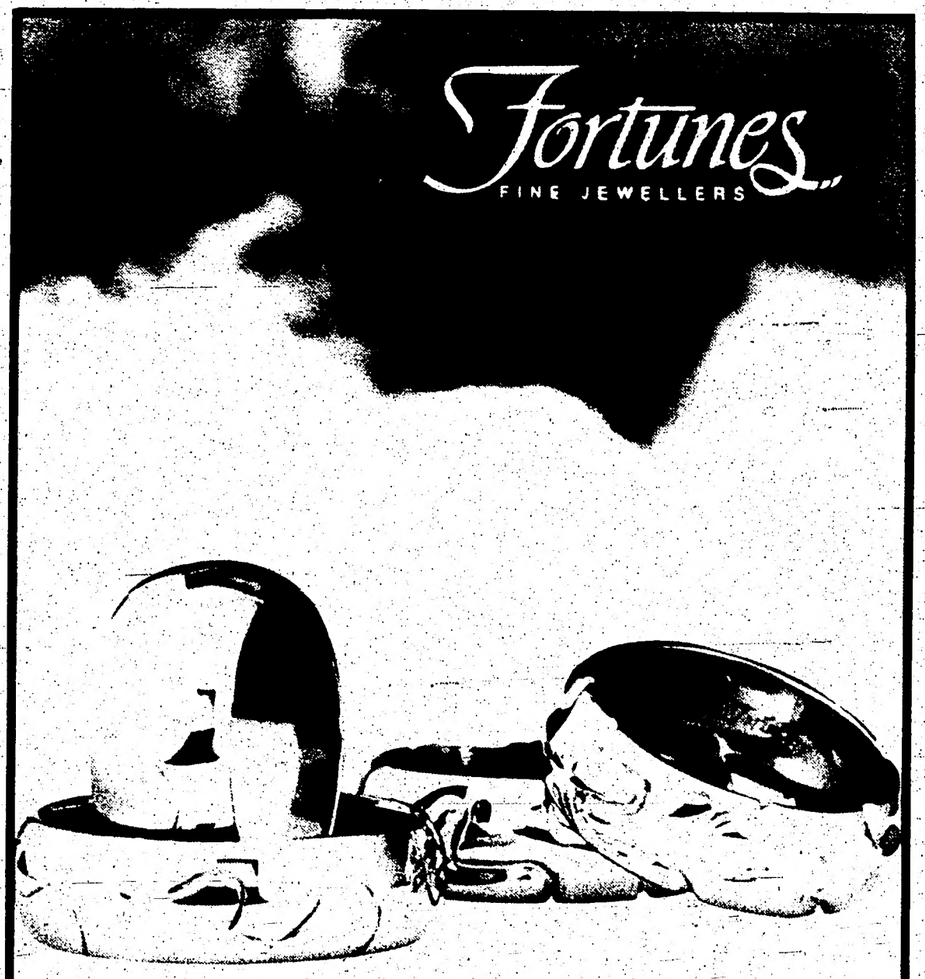

Marc Cain's colors and fabrications dazzle crowd

Fashion writer Marie Moore attended Igedo, Collectins Premieres Duesseldorf, a three-day trade event held in Duesseldorf, Germany. This is one of her reports on current European lines.

By
MARIE MOORE

Designer Karin Feit has created five style themes for the Marc Cain label, which launched its 1990 fall/winter womenswear collection at the Igedo CPD event, in Duesseldorf, Germany.

A range of exciting color themes expressed variations in knitwear, wovens, leather and denims, rounded off with a matching group of accessories including belts, hosiery, gloves, scarves, hats and jewelry.

The Pintura Pastels — in rose, soft petrol, ice blue, raw white, flint, sand and cream — were accented with strong shades of mocca, old gold, black and aubergine.

Fabrications such as silk brocade, sand-washed silk, silky plush, tweed and gabardine in pure new wool, light cashmere fearnought, lamb nappa, lambskin (suede with irridescent fleece inside) and silk-look microfibre were blended with angora-silk blends, cashmere or pure new wool, high-twist look yarns, rustic tweeds and tuck knits in wool/cotton blends.

Designs focused on luxurious brocades with plain or melange backgrounds in feminine, tight-silhouette trousers, classical skirt suits, casual pullovers, or "blouse bodies." Wrap-over coats, waisted three-quarter length coats with pleated backs and softly swinging Entrefino jackets completed the lineup.

Collars were wrapped, looped, draped, worn as a hood or with an asymmetrical emphasis. Cardigans with fringes or elaborate three-dimensional patterning effects were also shown.

The Patina theme combined playful, dainty designs with more severe, uniform cuts and warm, casual styles. This grouping featured a lot of fringes and hoods.

Other pieces included narrow trousers, short shorts, bermudas, wrap-over mini skirts, blazers and asymmetrical blousons. They were topped with slit kimono coats, impregnated trenchcoats and lightwear, reversible coats.

Shades of yellow — bamboo, raffia, amber, citrus, honey, brass and gold — were contrasted with striking accents in midnight, navy and China blue.

Lustrous silk jaquards, irridescent taffeta silk and transparent lacquer fabrications added surface effects. Fairy-tale floral motifs, ornamentation, plisses and embroidery finished the fantasy.

The On Stage theme presented lake white, grey melange, asphalt, petrol and coral shades with silver, black and white. Utilizing lambswool and angora blends, stretch velvet, metal-look knits and double-face in silky microfibre, the designs experimented with interesting prints, embroidered applique and circus motifs.

The Geometrico theme grouped unusual color combinations of electric blue, moss green, black, olive, fir green, ice blue, lavender, iris and citrus in wool/viscose blends.

Basic geometric shapes were emphasized by striking contrasts. Intarsias were given a high-pile plush lift effect. Animal motifs abounded. Oversized pullovers offered side slits, balloon backs, buttoned shoulders and collar variations over tapered trousers or tight-fitting minis.

But the final and most attractive grouping was the Oriental theme. Here, Feit not only utilized interesting fabrications, but cut and shaped them into designs that dared to be different.

These two factors set the grouping apart from the rest of the Cain collection and, in fact, from the balance of the runway lines.

Styling was close-cut, with silhouette-featuring effects such as cigarette pants and tight skirts worn under sophisticated jackets. Imaginative rollneck sweaters, blouses and ribbed pullovers complemented suits and separates, while simple, calf-length, wrap-over dresses in transparent woven fabrics were daringly slit on the side.

Asymmetrically belted leather jackets, chunky woven fur waistcoats and long cashmere coats completed the picture.

Details focused on fur-trimmed collars and lapels (some button on), asymmetrical collar designs, draping and versatile trousers which transformed into saucy shorts. Many blazers featured built-in waistcoats.

The splendor of the Orient was transposed into a modern theme with fine gold trim, ornamental floral prints, decoratif applique and interwoven cashmere motifs of gold. Luxurious silk brocade, transparent georgette and crepe de chine in pure silk, deerskin nappa with fur trim and lambskin (suede with irridescent fleece inside) pure cashmere, shimmering metallics and soft, flowing wool/viscose blends leant an airy quality to each garment.

The colors were glorious. Arabesque, red earth, pompeii red, etruscan, muscat and marsala contrasted with black, gold and silver.

Applause in the standing-room only hall was thunderous. Feit has definitely delivered a resounding success.

Marc Cain's Geometrico grouping features animal motifs and unusual colors.

Striking is the only word which can be used to describe these designs by Tristano Onofri.

Onofri's collection a hit

Italian designer Tristano Onofri's new association with L.P. Designer Fashion in Duesseldorf allows him to channel all of his creative energy into styling.

This season's collection meets the demands of elegant, career-conscious women who rate activity as one of their top priorities. It pays close attention to quality, fit and final appearance of both the product and the person who wears it.

Divided into three themes (business, city/shopping and celebration), garments are designed to dress clients in an elegant fashion, no matter where they're going.

The business grouping features subtle grey, camel and natural tones, as well as black and white. The entire women's outerwear palette has been designed to co-ordinate with business suitings.

The silhouette is generally slender, with the exception of complementary full-cut coats and bell-shaped jackets. Subtle details, such as shawl collars, are offered on dresses and blouses. Jackets (ranging from the spencer to a blazer) occassionally feature balloon-shaped sleeves and shawl collars.

The ensemble concept, which is evident throughout the entire collection, is perfectly executed. Lavish embroidery is found on the collar of coats and jackets, as well as on the waistband of the pants.

Women who communicate a more expressive aura in their executive positions apply strategic color accents in spruce, bordeaux, Chinese blue, red, ochre and green. One striking coat features a stole/collar cut, cuffs and muffs in contrasting blue fox.

Specially developed buttons radiate a personality of their own, with their jewelry-like character, demonstrating once again Onofri's great attention to detail.

The business theme leads right into the city/shopping grouping which in turn fits perfectly into the sophisticated image of the collection as a whole.

Colors add zest to the look of the metropoles, serving as an orientation point for the women of the world. Royal blue, sun yellow, fire red and violet are dominant.

Luxurious and always contrasting interiors of the suit jackets are set off with particular advantage here. Even though the themes are clearly separated, the lining allows one to mix-and-match these pieces with business and celebration separates.

Once again, buttons are adapted to the look of the garments, adding a sporty effect to the overall mood.

The knit line, cut with generosity and classic simplicity, adds a further dimension to this grouping. Co-ordinating high quality cashmere shawls accentuate casual, mid-tone jackets, blazers and short coats, darker trousers, gilets and vests. The picture is completed with vivacious blouses in glowing green and red tones.

The celebration grouping is fabricated of velvet, silk, and taffeta. The suits, tuxedos and dresses, reminiscent of the Marlene Dietrich style are highlighted with specially designed strass buttons (spherically shaped and each bearing a clip so it can also be worn as a brooch).

Tristano Onofri is distributed in exclusive shops and the company's own boutiques all over the world. — M.M.

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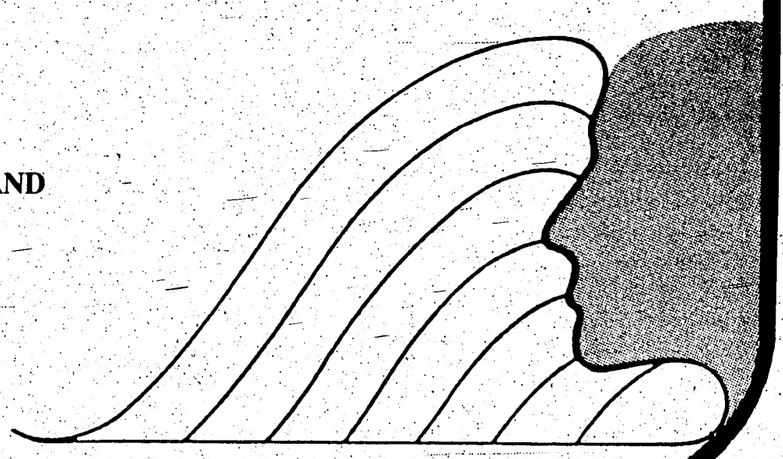

Arts

Morley Torgov pokes fun at the legal profession

Books

By BERNARD BASKIN

St. Farb's Day, by Morley Torgov (Lester & Open Dennys, $24.95).

The eponymous hero of this humorous and perceptive novel is a Toronto lawyer, edging 60, who is universally admired for his probity and fair dealing. Even his legal adversaries agree that Farb (always called by his last name) is a splendid member of their fraternity.

But as the novel begins, Farb is not without his problems. In the first place it is Friday, always a distasteful and burdensome day before the welcome weekend. Moreover, in his office impatiently awaiting his arrival are the "Sinister Sisters," two wealthy harridans who with their absurd demands and constant complaints, bedevil Farb's life and shatter his equanimity.

In addition, his estranged wife whom Farb still loves is considering a serious relationship with a California doctor and demanding a property settlement. And to cap it all, Farb's 89-year-old father, ensconced in a nursing home, has met a lively widow, also a resident, and is considering matrimony. He also suggests to his son that as a former lawyer, shrewd and experienced, he would be an asset to Farb's law firm.

The "Sinister Sisters" Bertha Kopman and Rachel Slatkin, owners of a decaying downtown Toronto property have been offered a surprising sum of money for the Bradley Block and have come to consult their trusted attorney.

Before long a spirited bidding war develops when another of Farb's clients sets his heart on the suddenly desirable property. Compounding Farb's already complex legal and ethical problems are a number of corrupt real estate agents and a suave, smooth-talking lawyer who is determined to keep the bidding competition alive.

Farb concerned about conflict of interest, trying to retain lucrative clients who are on opposite sides of the bidding, forced to match wits with tricky and unscrupulous opponents, is a decent man with proper instincts, trying to survive in a duplicitous society.

Readers succumb to Farb's many charms

He is intelligent, sensitive, self-effacing, with a penchant for looking at the humor in every situation. The reader quickly succumbs to his charm and emphathizes with his troubled spirit.

A sub-plot concerns the robbery of a Bathurst Street variety store in which Farb is inadvertently involved, and during which the proprietor is critically wounded.

Torgov, two time winner of the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour, has a natural comic sense and the one liners are plentiful and arresting. His keen ear for dialogue leads to verbal exchanges that are alive and colorful.

When Rachel Slatkin hears about the robbery she explodes: "A variety store on Bathurst Street! Ugliest street in the whole of Toronto. Ugly buildings, ugly stores, ugly traffic. Only safe way to cross that damn street is in an army tank. And those men on the sidewalks with black hats and long black coats down to their ankles and beards to match! . . . I thought you live in a civilized part of town, Farb, somewhere around Yonge and St. Clair."

In a wonderful piece of satire, in a form of a mock sermon, an amoral lawyer explains why real estate is a person's most valuable possession and its proper development the will of God.

"And God spoke to me further. Think of it, my son: enough property here to plunk down a coupla hundred single-family dwellings, some row housing, a handful of highrises — you know, rentals, condos, co-ops, whatever — and a strip mall with a supermarket, bank, hairdresser, cleaner, variety store, two or three boutiques, maybe a kids' shoestore. Roads, sewers, curbs, streetlights, a small park and playground just to keep the bleeding hearts at city council from voting no to rezoning the area. You getting my message, boy?"

As you might expect, it all ends agreeably as Farb ingeniously fits the pieces together. The good are rewarded, the evil are punished and Bay Street will never be the same.

Saint Farb's Day displays another side of Torgov's talent and should reward him with many additional appreciative readers.

Hagit Cohen presents an exhibition of computer-generated images at the Koffler Centre beginning on Jan. 15.

Cohen exhibit at Koffler Gallery

TORONTO —

Hovering At A Low Altitude, an exhibition of computer-generated images by Hagit Cohen will open at the Koffler Gallery on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

The images in the exhibition are a combination of the artist's own photography with book and magazine images of Israel, photographed from the computer screen and printed to 30 to 40 inches in size.

The computer allows Cohen to manipulate and contrast the various images to the point of absurdity. Above all, the works speak directly to the current Israeli political situation.

The title, Hovering At A Low Altitude is taken from a poem by contemporary Israeli poet Dahlia Ravikovitch and refers to a particular way of seeing — a detached observation of terrible events, like flipping the channels of a television, wherein we see but choose not to see, and consequently not to act.

The Middle East situation becomes for Cohen a metaphor for the deterioration of dreams, through our awareness of, but unwillingness to confront, the circumstances which surround us. Conscious, but safe in our silence, a witness to everything, but a participant in nothing: hovering at a low altitude.

Also opening on Jan. 15 is an exhibition of new sculptural work by Toronto artist Stacey Spiegel.

Each sculpture in Visible Flow will servce as a structural model of a particular organic system and will include stainless steel and aluminum machine components and moving water.

This new project is a fusion of ideas about nature and technology, ideas that cross from the theories of entropy and chaos and examine the nature of culture.

An illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition, with an essay by Ihor Holubizky, acting contemporary curator of the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

Both exhibitions continue through Feb. 25.

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Leisure Pleasures

By VIVIENNE MUHLING 422-2331

Hero or Traitor? In **BITTER FRIENDS**, opening Jan. 17, David Klein steals U.S. defence secrets to aid his beloved Israel. Based on a real spy trial, the emotional perplexity of dual loyalties is drama that touches us all. **Jordan Merkur** directs a powerful cast in **Gordon Rayfield's** timely play, Sat.-Thurs. at **Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst Street, 630-6752.**

* * *

If you've not yet seen "the happiest show in town", do put **ME AND MY GIRL** on your New Year's good times list. The multi-award Brit musical hit is a real blues chaser, thanks to the comic capers of an all-star Canadian cast. For your wee ones, **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**, 1:30 Wknd. mats. are magic. **Limelight Dinner Theatre, 2026 Yonge St., 482-5200.**

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Arts

The lead players in Mermaids (from left)—Christina Ricci, Cher, Bob Hoskins and Winona Ryder.

Cher, Ryder entertaining in unconventional Mermaids

Film

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mermaids, Richard Benjamin's account of a zany, fatherless Jewish family in the early 1960s, is by turns charming, disarming and dull.

The Flax family of the Massachusetts coastal town of East Port is, in a word, unconventional.

Rachel Flax (Cher), who is sexy and brassy, is a single mother with two daughters whose unsuccessful affairs with men, whether married or not, have prompted "sudden and unexpected departures" from 18 homes in perhaps as many years.

Rachel's comely 15-year-old daughter, Charlotte (Winona Ryder), is fixated on Catholic saints and is desperate to be a nun. Indeed, she wears a golden crucifix. Rachel, whose parents were kosher bakers, reminds Charlotte that her fixation with Christianity is unseemly, but she leaves it at that.

Kate (Christina Ricci), Rachel's nine-year old, a swimming champion conceived in sin during a one-night stand with an Olympic athlete, seems normal, considering her upbringing.

Now playing at Cineplex Odeon theatres, *Mermaids* revolves around three themes: Rachel's tempestuous relationship with her older daughter, who wrongly suspects that she covets the same man (Michael Schoeffling); Rachel's offbeat romance with Lou Landsky (Bob Hoskins), the patient local shoestore proprietor who flinches at her abrasiveness; and Charlotte's youthful but temporary flirtation with Roman Catholicism.

Although *Mermaids* usually zips along at a brisk pace, it does bog down occasionally, triggering bouts of fidgeting. Yet these lapses don't really have an adverse bearing on its cheerful affability.

Cher, as she proved in *Moonstruck* several years ago, is quite a performer, an actress whose every nuance is fine-tuned.

Ryder is bouncy and always appealing, while Ricci, in her film debut, shows immense promise. Hoskins, despite his muffled American accent, comes through unscathed.

SNIPPETS...

•Based on a true story, *Awakenings* is a touching film of how an eccentric and socially awkward doctor (Robin Williams) in a large chronic care facility copes with a group of encephalitic victims who've been consigned to the realm of the living dead. Williams rises to the occasion, but is ultimately overshadowed by his co-lead, Robert DeNiro, who plays one of the patients. Julie Kavner and Penelope Ann Miller, in secondary roles as a compassionate nurse and a hospital visitor, shine brightly.

Penny Marshall's affecting picture has a universal appeal. Highly recommended.

•Ivan Reitman's comedy, *Kindergarten Cop*, stars Arnold Schwarzenegger as an undercover detective who doubles as a teacher in his quest to protect a child and catch a dope dealer. Schwarzenegger, a former bodybuilder whose forte usually is not acting, is surprisingly good as he copes with a gaggle of inquisitive six-year-olds, a sickly associate (Pamela Reed), a revolting criminal (Richard Tyson) and a winsome teacher across the hall (Penelope Ann Miller). *Kindergarten Cop*, set mostly in rural Oregon, is suitable for kids and adults.

•Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Sheltering Sky* is set in the Middle East, in Morocco's foreboding Sahara Desert, and adapted from Paul Bowles' 1949 novel. Debra Winger and John Malkovich play a bohemian New York couple whose marriage is in great need of reinvigoration. Campbell Scott portrays a vacuous Long Island socialite who seduces Winger. Jill Bennett is a snotty British traveller writer who claims that Spain is "full of soldiers, priests and Jews" who control the country.

The Sheltering Sky is a fairly strong film which examines the nature of alienation and despair and the effect of an Islamic culture on Western dilettantes. Winger and Malkovich deliver effective performances, and Vittorio Storaro's cinematography of classic sand dunes, complete with a caravan, is stunning.

Difficult world of parenting is explored from Torah view

By
LEILA SPEISMAN

TORONTO —

One might be forgiven, upon finding yet another book on parenting, for throwing up one's hands and yelling a hysterical "enough already!"

Unless the book has something special to offer.

Such is the case with *The Delicate Balance; love and authority in Torah parenting* (Targum Press, 1989), by Torontonian Sarah Chana Radcliffe.

Radcliffe, who holds an M.A. degree in psychology from the University of Toronto, is an educational therapist in private practice.

She specializes in parent education and counselling, and has worked extensively with children.

As well, she is a teacher at Bais Yaakov Seminary, teaching special education and communications.

Parenting, she says, is difficult with today's democratic lifestyle, where everything is open to debate.

It is difficult, she says, to negotiate with children without a higher authority to which to refer, and to give one confidence.

"As parents, we have the ability and responsibility to lead children down the path we want them to go."

Children, she says, are closer to HaShem than adults are. "They want to do the right thing."

When they see their parents yield to the higher authority of G-d, Radcliffe, says, "they see that that is the grownup thing to do."

In *The Delicate Balance*, however, Radcliffe doesn't depend solely on an abstract or philosophical approach, and the book is by no means only for the observant.

There are three ways to shape behavior, she says, positive reinforcement, such as smiles, praise, charts and prizes; modelling ("if a child sees a parent lashing out and being destructive, he will also behave like that. On the other hand, if the parent says 'I am getting frustrated, so I will sit down and think about it, the child will also adopt that style' " and, as a last resort, negative consequences, such as time out, addition of work or removal of possessions.

One appealing feature of this book (for parents) is that Radcliffe does not assume parents are perfect themselves.

"Children have free will to misinterpret and think up their own world," she says.

"The bottom line is that we have to pray, and to realize that the child has his own personality and a free will. We only have 50 per cent power to influence."

As in her previous work, *Aizer K'negdo, the Jewish woman's guide to happiness in marriage*, Radcliffe uses the simulated conversation technique, to illustrate both the correct and incorrect ways of handling situations.

Who has not responded to a child's admission that he has spilled a bottle of oil on the floor by yelling "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THIS OIL COSTS? OH NO! WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING?"

Surely we would like to take Radcliffe's suggestion of counting to 10 mentally, breathing deeply before each count, and be able to respond "...I see...It's quite a mess, isn't it? Please go get the bucket, soap suds and sponges. We'll have to clean this up quickly."

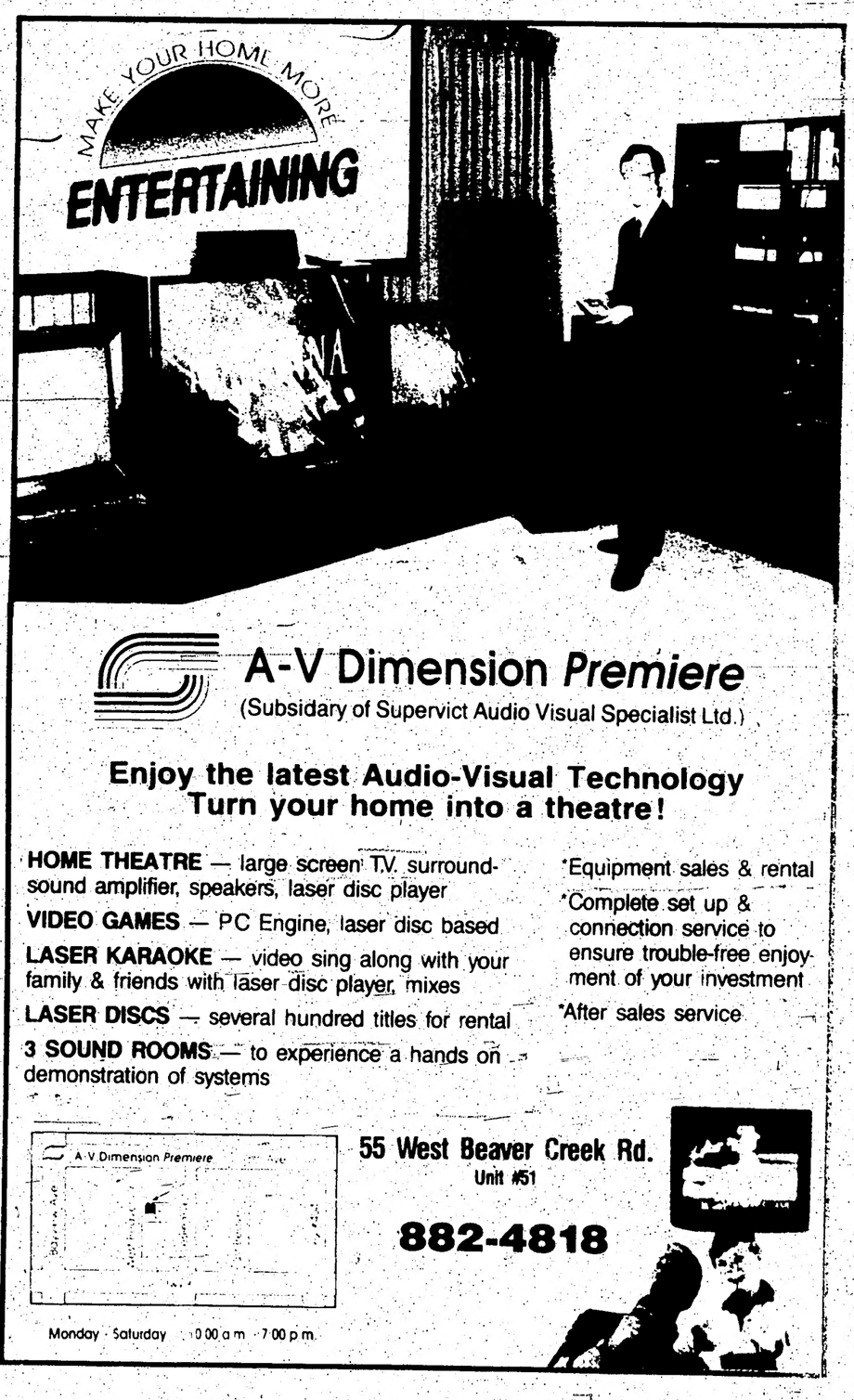
Radcliffe acknowledges that there are times when everything seems too much.

In that case, she suggests, often refraining from doing anything, just giving lots of praise, can lead to a great improvement all by itself.

A Delicate Balance is available in most Jewish bookstores.

FILM SOCIETY SCREENINGS

Ethel Teitelbaum, chair of the Jewish Film Society, and Arnie Zipursky, director of Einstein Tonight, at the screening of his film early last month. The next Society screening is the Life of Emile Zola on Feb. 3, 1991.



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Levine to lead Shabbat Shira

TORONTO —

Cantor Joseph A. Levine is Holy Blossom Temple's Scholar-in-Residence for a Shabbat Shira weekend, Jan. 25 - 27. The series of three musical events begins on Friday, Jan. 25 at 8:30 p.m.

In Filling Space and Time, Cantor Levine will explore the essence of a worship experience, and discuss how to involve people in meaningful prayer.

At the Shabbat morning service on Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m., Levine will present a sermon-in-song: Praying by the Rules, an examination of contemporary worship in the light of tradition. He will trace synagogue song from its beginnings during Second Temple times up to the mid-20th century.

At the Brotherhood Breakfast Club on Sunday, Jan. 27 at 9:30 a.m. Levine will conclude his lecture series with Only in America. Through a series of hilarious song parodies, he will relate the funniest incidents of his own career as a cantor, as well as the foibles of other synagogue functionaries.

Levine holds a doctorate in Sacred Music from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, where he taught Chazzanut. For 25 years he served as a full-time congregational cantor. He has written extensively, and his articles have appeared regularly in Midstream, Musica Judaica and the Journal of Synagogue Music.

His recent book Synagogue Song in America has been widely acclaimed as "a book of enormous value to the life of Judaism today." Choice, a monthly review journal of the American Library Association, calls it "the most important study of Jewish music to appear in English in the past 50 years — sufficiently comprehensive to allow its use as a primary text on the subject."

Travel

Rappelling in Negev an exhilarating experience

By
BRUCE BROWN

TEL AVIV —

During my more than 18 months of study, work and play in Israel, one of my most memorable, off-the-beaten-track adventures were the 2½ days of rappelling (descending a cliff by rope) in the rugged Israeli desert.

This supervised excursion took place in the middle of nowhere — or more accurately, the north/western area of the Negev Desert in southern Israel.

My adventure began with a 3½ hour Egged bus ride from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem then southeast to the Dead Sea coastline, finally veering westward into the great expanse known as the Negev. Soon after we reached our base of hastily contructed spartan cabins at Metzoke Dragot.

The trip provided spectacular views of the rocky Judean hills and cliffs, the magnificent salt pillars of the Dead Sea and the pioneering kibbutzim of David Ben Gurion's dreams; which are nothing less than oases dotting the endless brown sand where olympic-size swimming pools sparkle blue alongside the gleaming green of irrigated mango groves and date palms.

While some of this adventure took place within the hotly contested West Bank (Judea, to be specific), the intifada was neither seen nor heard, as if muted by the serenity of the desert.

Once our group had arrived from various points across the country and had gathered in the moadone (club house), the madracheim (leaders) distributed the necessary equipment for the next two days: helmets, safety straps, ropes, karabina — the critical little metal device which keeps your rope and safety straps held tightly together around your midsection — and, of course, the equally critical giant-sized canteen.

The next part of the day consisted of classroom instruction on rappelling theory in Hebrew (thoughtfully translated for me by a South African immigrant). After this, the remainder of the time was for our leisure . . . and rest, as tomorrow promised to be a full day of practice cliffs, beginning at 4 a.m.

I used my leisure time to introduce myself to the other 25 group members, all of whom were Israelis from both the civilian and military communities.

I also enjoyed the breathtaking scenery of the desert, outlined by the pale blue Dead Sea off in the distance and quietly watching the wild ibexes darting around our cabins and the abandoned military base adjacent to the moadone.

Wake up call was indeed at 4 a.m. We were given 15 minutes to prepare.

We were on the dusty desert trail by 4:30 a.m. and at our destination of 10 to 40 metre cliffs a half hour later.

Remaining relatively sedentary for the day, we practiced rappelling down the surrounding cliffs. We were given the first hour to eat and fasten our safety straps as previously instructed. Meanwhile, the madracheim hiked to the top of the cliffs to fasten the ropes which we would be rappelling from shortly.

Rappelling in the Negev.

We were now at the top of our first 30-metre cliff. Going against all natural instinct, once our turn came, we were to take that first step over the precipice . . . backwards. My mother's dire warning from years-gone-by echoed in my ears, "Bruce, always watch your step!"

Three ropes were prepared from the cliff's edge in order that we rappell in groups of three. Not only does misery love company but, as I found out, so does fear. And these were only practice cliffs.

I was now securely fastened to the rope and ready to take that first backward step. My palms were sweating, my heart was beating loudly — no banging — and my glasses had fogged up as a result of the condensation building from the sweat of my brow.

Two thousand years passed before I took that first step. And then there I was, rappelling with the best of them. I was face to cliff-face with nature and had nothing but my wits and faithful karabina to count on.

I was pushing myself off the face of the cliff like a pro! I had visions of Batman rappelling down the sides of buildings in Gotham City flashing before my eyes. And here I was rappelling in the Israeli desert . . . and loving it!

After another seven practice drops, we also learned how to scale up ropes and to untangle knots in the rope if one should occur while rappelling — long shoelaces definitely come in handy in such instances.

By 2 p.m. the desert heat and a full day of rappelling had exhausted us. We returned to our base, washed the grimy mixture of sand and sweat from our bodies, ate a hardy meal of pita, Israeli salad (concocted of finely diced cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, peppers, and olives with a garlic-lemon dressing), hummous (crushed chick peas) and thickly brewed Israeli coffee. We then collapsed into a deep sleep until our wake-up call the next morning, again at 4 a.m.

This was to be the real thing. A seven kilometre hike which included rappelling down five cliffs ranging in height from 45 to 60 metres. But this time, we had all become relatively adept at fastening our safety straps — occasionally doing so with very little space between us and the cliff's edge.

As well, the thought of rappelling from such heights no longer brought on the initial anxiety of yesterday's 30-metre drops. Rather, as we hiked toward each cliff and awaited our turn to rappel beneath the cool shade offered by huge boulders, sweet anticipation of the drop ahead occupied our thoughts.

One of the more interesting sights of the day was a Bedouin riding his camel and shepherding his flock of sheep to who-knows-where.

As we approached the final 60-metre cliff, we discovered a dearth of water, as was indicated by everyone asking everyone else for a swig from their canteen.

The kibbutz from which Metzoke Dragot operated and the promise of the ice-cold Maccabee beer — definitely "Maccabbee time" — was just a hop, skip and 60-metre jump away . . . or so we thought.

Wishful thinking! Safely landing from an exhausting and dry final rappel, we discovered that the kibbutz was a 'mere' 20-minute uphill hike away in 43C (110F) temperature with no shade in sight and . . . no water.

With dry mouths, thickened tongues, and parched lips, we marched . . . and marched . . . and marched . . . It seemed endless.

What seemed like 40 years later, the length of time it took Moses to find the Promised Land, the kibbutz finally appeared. Our pace quickened to a trot and then a gallop. We hurdled over the kibbutz's protective barbed wire fence rather than running around it.

We then sprinted toward the centre of the kibbutz where we knew the chader rochel (dining room) would be located. Sure enough it was. And awaiting our attack in front of the building were picnic-tables stacked with juicy, red watermelons and rows of cold, wet Maccabee beer.

No sooner had we regained our strength than the group of proud, tried-and-true desert rappellers began to disperse. In various kibbutz cars we were driven back to our hastily constructed, spartan cabins to claim our possessions. Then we went our separate ways to the city, town, kibbutz or military base from where we came.

Israelis are like that. No ritual departures of long goodbyes. No pats on the back. We did what we did and were proud of it; the achievement internalized.

Given the relatively small size of Israel, everyone knew that it was just a matter of time before they would run into one another. If not on another tiyul (hike) than elsewhere, perhaps.

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Prices expected to rise this year

Registrar urges travellers to know all costs of trip

TORONTO —

Vacationers booking package tours for winter-escape holidays should make sure they know the full price of the trip brfore signing up.

"Add-ons to the advertised price of a trip can include mandatory meal plans, extra fees for the use of the hotel facilities and service charges, just to name a few examples," says Hal Burns, travel registrar at the Minstry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR).

Burns cautions consumers to be aware there may be a substantial difference between the price the buyer sees in an ad and the final cost that appears on the travel contract.

Ministry examines packages

"The great majority of travel agents try to ensure the price they advertise is the before-tax price consumers will eventually pay," he says. "But there are exceptions."

Consumer ministry staff recently looked into several cases of excessive add-ons to packages. In some instances "mandatory options" brought the lowest available price up to double the advertised rate.

Burns says, even with the best intentions, agents can't prevent travel prices from rising this year.

Current increases in fuel prices will affect more than just air fares. For example, many tropical resort hotels use diesel-fueled generators to power restaurants, laundries, air conditioners and pool-filtration systems. They are necessary because local public utilities can't cope with hotels' power demands in many areas.

But when the fuel price increases, the extra cost of running private power systems can zap vacationers' hotel bills. Added to the increased cost of transporting food and other goods, the rise in the price of your room could be substantial.

But, once a contract has been signed with an Ontario registered travel agent, provincial law protects consumers from getting a shock when they pay the final tab.

"Under the Travel Industry Act, if the price of the holiday increases by more than seven per cent, for any reason except in changes in government taxes, consumers have the option of cancelling the trip with a full refund, or, if available, accepting comparable alternate travel services," explains Burns.

A little knowledge about the act can help consumers any time, but in the current economic climate, experts consider it a necessity.

"With money tight and the prices on the rise," says Burns, "consumers should make doubly sure they're aware of the price-increase protection offered by this law."

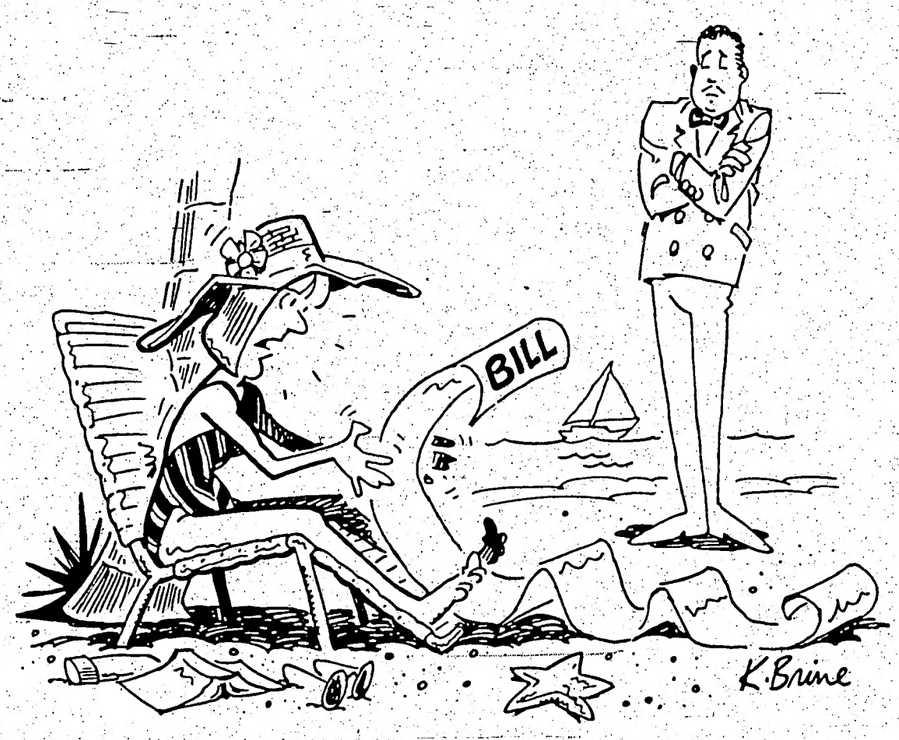
In addition to providing pricing protection, the Travel Industry Act makes agents responsible for any substantial changes to services offered in your package.

To make sure your holiday is protected by the Travel Industry Act, deal only with an Ontario registered agency. Consumers should look for an MCCR certificate hanging on the office wall.

Buying from a registered agent insures Ontario vacationers against another problem — the bankruptcy of a travel agency or wholesaler.

The Travel Industry Compensation Fund can return up to $3,500 per individual claim for travel services paid for but not received. The industry-sponsored fund, supervised by a board of trustees, only returns money lost due to a bankruptcy or insolvency. Quality complaints are not considered.

For help planning your next vacation, request a free copy of the brochure **Travel tips,** by writing to MCCR's Consumer Information Centre, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.



Don't let the shock of the actual cost of your vacation ruin your holiday.

New resort in Colorado offers White Pesach deals

DENVER —

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Travel

There's more than skiing in Oslo!

By JAMES MONTAGNES

There is more than skiing for vacationers in Europe. There is plenty of sightseeing. For example, at Holmenkollen ski jumping area near Oslo, Norway, there is a ski museum, in the base of the Holmenkollen ski jump, where there are skis on display used by Polar explorers Nansen and Amundsen.

The Norwegian Folk Museum near Oslo has 150 wooden buildings from all parts of the country including a 12th century wooden church. The indoor part of the museum has a variety of items including ancient tapestries and artifacts from Lapland.

In ship museums in Oslo and other cities there are Viking ships over 1,000 years old, found in good condition, as well as more modern ships used in Polar explorations.

The legendary voyages across the Pacific Ocean from South America on balsam rafts were duplicated in the 1940 period by Thor Heyerdahl.

He and five companions made the journey on a balsam raft from Callao, Peru, to French Polynesia, a distance of nearly 5,000 miles (8,000 km). The raft is in its own museum in Oslo.

The Austrian Tyro region also has attractions. In Innsbruck, for instance, sightseeing buses will take you to the Winter Olympic site of the 1904 and 1970 events or to the Olympic Museum housed in a former ducal palace.

The exterior of the museum dates back to the architecture of the Middle Ages. You can visit or stay at the Goldener Adler, Golden Eagle, an inn dating back to the 16th century where poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe used to stay.

Among museums in Innsbruck do not miss the 16th century Hofkirche, Court Church, with 28 over life-size bronze statues of royal personalities of that time.

In Salzburg you can visit not only the house where Amadeus Mozart was born, but also the place where the movie Sound of Music was produced. Salzberg has a cathedral built over 1,200 years ago, and museums to theatrical impresario Max Reinhardt, to folklore, toys and natural history.

A number of Swiss winter resorts are near the federal capital city of Bern where one of the unforgettable sights is the 16th century clock-tower which features a procession of animals following a jester on the striking of the hour.

The city has a number of arcaded streets to provide shelter along shops when it rains and fountains with statues in the middle of the road.

Not far from ski resorts in central Switzerland is Lucerne where you can walk across a small lake on a covered 14th century wooden bridge. In northestern Switzerland, also known as horse country, is a recently-built clock and watch museum at La Chaux-de-Fonds, for in this area is the centre of the Swiss watch-making industry.

One of the outdoor folk museums in central Europe, with buildings dating back to the 16th century.

Guide outlines adventurous trips

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Travel guides to suit all tastes and budgets...

Travellers in good physical shape with a yen for something different should consult *Adventure Vacations: From Trekking in New Guinea to Swimming in Siberia* (Raincoast Books, $23.50).

Richard Bangs' reference book describes more than 200 exotic holidays on seven continents offered by expedition outfitters throughout the world.

Each entry includes highlights, a short summary, day-to-day itinerary, cost, the best months to travel and the outfitter of choice.

Adventurous souls would do well to keep this guide within easy reach.

If you're thinking of visiting Asia, here are a few guides worth perusal:

•*Island of Australia's Great Barrier Reef* (Raincoast, $16.95) — Tony Wheeler describes deserted coral cays, lush tropical islands, white sand beaches and astonishing marine life. Judging by his report, the scuba diving seems breathtaking.

•*New Caledonia* (Raincoast, $13.95) — New Caledonia's rich native and French colonial heritage is certainly worth exploring, as are its beaches and luxuriant forests.

•*Maldives & Islands of the East Indian Ocean* (Raincoast, $12.95) — This chain of atolls southwest of India, governed by five nations, is a bureaucratic nightmare for tourists. But if writer Robert Wilcox is correct, as he probably is, the Maldives, with their endless sandy beaches and great scuba diving facilities, are worth all the trouble.

•*Tonga* (Raincoast, $13.95) — Spread across 362,000 kilometres of the South Pacific, the Kingdom of Tonga consists of 170 diverse islands. As Deanna Swaney suggests, it may be one of the last places to escape modern civilization.

•*Fiji* (Raincoast, $11.95) — Fiji is known far and wide for its informal ambience and its excellent resorts. Rob Kay's guide gives you an insider's view of a Pacific paradise.

•*Samoa: Western & American Samoa* (Raincoast, $13.95) — Turquoise waters, warm breezes, soft sand, gentle people... What more can one say?

•*Thailand* (Raincoast, $17.5) — This southeast Asian country has something for everybody: superb beaches, secluded tropical islands, jungle trails, Buddhist retreats, extraordinary nightclubs and a renowned cuisine. Author Joe Cummings takes you on a first-class tour of what used to be called Siam.

•*India* (Raincoast, $25.95) — Being a subcontinent with a dazzling variety of cultures and an infinite number of destinations, India deserves more than a casual review. This guide, containing 930 pages and 193 maps, won't disappoint anyone. It's comprehensive and readable.

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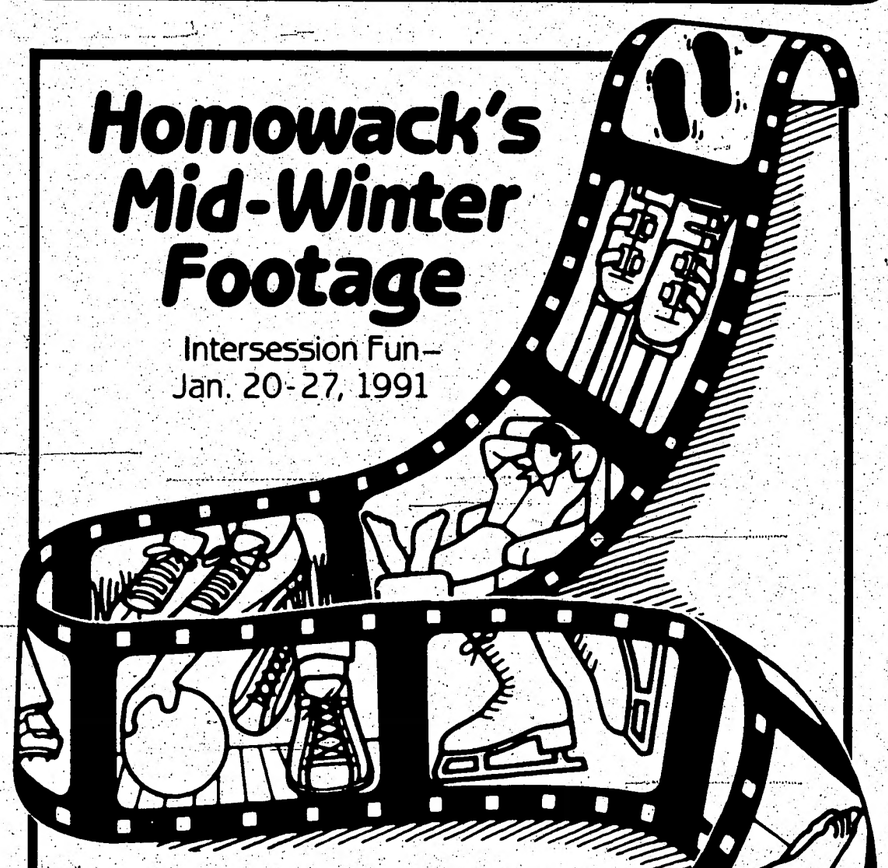
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Business Outlook

Appearance therapy more than skin deep

Lori Weisbrod demonstrates her method of masking surgical scars on Debbie Harris. These photos (counter clockwise from top left) show three stages in Weisbrod's approach. (Marie Moore photos)

Technique can camouflage scars and boost individual's self-image

TORONTO — Boosting self-image through appearance is the philosophy behind Looks by Lori.

Owner Lori Weisbrod says that those individuals who are physically disabled or who have a serious illness or who have had surgery which has left them with a visible scar, should try to maintain a positive self-image through their appearance.

She adds that these individuals can enhance "the quality of their lives with the benefits derived from looking better and feeling good about the way they look."

Weisbrod says her business provides a service, which she calls appearance therapy, that makes people "appear healthier than they feel. This often helps them to deal with the anxiety they carry within, as well as the anxiety they sense in others who meet them."

The effects of appearance therapy reduce the negative psychological effect of scars or illness in her clients. By teaching them how to apply special makeup products, she often gives customers a new sense of self-confidence and hope.

Looks By Lori began when Weisbrod was diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis. Her own experiences with surgery and a partially debilitating disease made her realize just how valuable such a service could be.

As a cosmetician, she already had the basic techniques, and as a patient, she had more than enough incentive to get her going.

Weisbrod's clients call her for a special occasion makeover (she applies a current, fashionable look that gives them a nice "lift"), or a teaching session (she trains them in the techniques appropriate for their own cosmetic needs), or to help them conceal a surgical scar.

Debbie Harris is a prime example of the benefits derived from appearance therapy. Harris met Weisbrod about a year ago through their association with The Arthritis Society. Since then, Weisbrod's personal and professional encouragement has made a big difference in her friend.

Weisbrod demonstrated how to mask Harris's four-inch scar caused by a total shoulder joint replacement about 18 months ago, made neccesary by rheumatoid arthritis.

Harris says she always has been uncomfortable about the scar. The first summer was the worse — just after she recuperated, it was time to wear swim suits and tank tops.

"I just couldn't," she said, adding she tried to buy camouflage makeup at a major department store, but the clerk, who was the expert on these products, was off that day.

Although someone else tried to help her, she really didn't know what to do and "I was too embarrassed to open my shirt in public.

"I didn't know how to mix the two colors she offered me. It was also painful for me to stand for a long period of time and the lighting was terrible."

Weisbrod stresses the importance of lighting when matching a shade of makeup to skin tone.

"If you need to mix two colors together — which is what most of my clients have to do — you end up buying two large containers and paying a lot of money for products that might end up spoiling before you finish them."

Once the demonstration was finished, Harris voiced her pleasure.

"When I look in the mirror, I feel like a roadmap. But after Lori has covered my scar, I don't have to deal with the pointing, the pity and the comments. I feel more attractive and that gives me more confidence — even in a tank top."

Weisbrod's fee includes a pre-mixed, seasonal supply of skin-matched base. The quantity depends on the size of the scar(s) and the frequency of application. By pre-mixing, Weisbrod eliminates the fuss and bother of a messy process for her clients.

Privacy is especially important for face-lift patients, men (about 20 per cent of Weisbrod's clients are male), severely scarred burn patients or people whose scars are in difficult to reach places. Because of this, Weisbrod leaves brochures in many elective surgery offices in Toronto. She also receives support from local dermatologists, orthopedic surgeons and rheumatologists.

Weisbrod travels to hospitals, private homes and senior citizen residences. She uses Camouflage Products, which are manufactured in the United States, and are not readily available over-the-counter in Canada.

She said she hopes to eventually manufacture her own line of products that are "not as thick or messy to apply.

"My goal is to train cosmeticians across Canada to deal with the needs of these people, effectively and efficiently. I'm also pushing for better accessibility for my clients in stores where regular cosmetics are sold.

"For example, they need lower counters, more stools and more space for wheelchairs."

Looks by Lori can be contacted through Rosemary Wassenaar at The Arthritis Society. Call 967-1414, extension 189.

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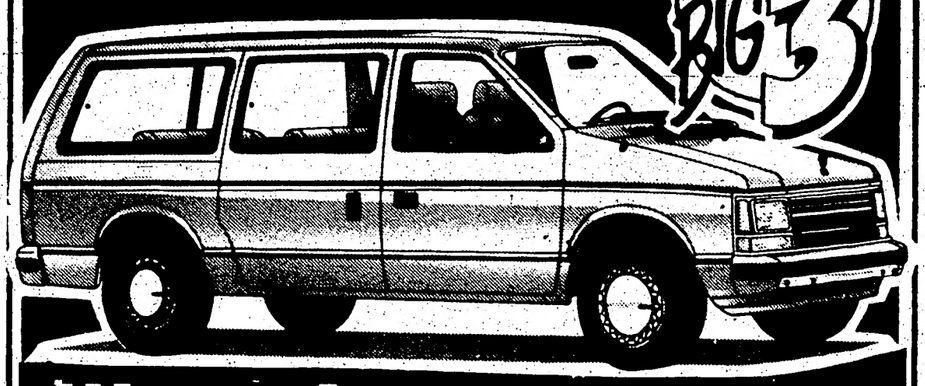
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Business Outlook

1990 deadline is March 1

RRSP contribution limits now higher

Tax News

By
AKI CHENCINSKI
&
LAURIE STARKMAN

RRSPs. Don't you just love them?

They are one of the most widely-known and best-used tax deferral vehicles. An RRSP allows an individual to make tax-deductible contributions to a retirement savings plan offered through various financial institutions.

The income earned in the plan is sheltered from income tax; however, all contributions and accumulated earnings are taxable when withdrawn. Hence, an RRSP may serve as an excellent planning tool to defer the recognition of income for tax purposes, as well as act as a vehicle to accumulate retirement savings.

The maximum tax-deductible contribution for 1990 is the lesser of $7,500 or 20 per cent of "earned income." Earned income essentially includes gross salaries (before CPP/UIC deductions), business income/loss, alimony and maintenance receipts and rental income/loss, but excludes interest income, dividend income and capital gains.

Earned income is reduced by such items as alimony and maintenance payments and union or professional dues. It also doesn't include any income or losses from limited partnerships, nor does it include any pension benefits or retiring allowances.

This monetary limit is further reduced for individuals who were members of a registered pension plan (RPP) or for whom contributions were made to a deferred profit sharing plan (DPSP). In either of these cases, the allowable contribution is further limited to $3,500 less any contributions made by the taxpayer to an RPP or DPSP.

To be deductible from 1990 income, contributions to an RRSP must be made by March 1, 1991. Contributions made in the first 60 days of 1991 can be deducted in either 1990 or 1991. An individual may also contribute to an RRSP for his or her spouse as long as the contributions to both plans do not exceed the maximum contribution limit of the contributor.

Contributions to an RRSP can be made up to the end of the calendar year in which an individual attains 71 years of age. Spousal contributions can be made by an individual over the age of 71, as long as his spouse meets this "71 years of age" requirement.

As with any deduction, the tax savings that result from an RRSP contribution depend on the taxpayer's effective marginal tax rate.

Guess what? Those new RRSP rules with increased contribution limits and carryforward capability now are law. No kidding! Effective in 1991, the long-awaited new RRSP rules are set to go, after several years in the making. Hang on to your hats, kids!

The stated objective of the new system is to provide an equitable and flexible program of tax assistance for retirement savings to all Canadians, regardless of their employment or pension situation. Therefore, commencing in 1991, all individuals will be subject to the following uniform and comprehensive contribution limits. In 1991, $11,500; in 1992, $12,500; in 1993, $13,500; in 1994, $14,500; and in 1995, $15,500.

Earned income is basis

Where the individual does not participate in an employer-sponsored pension plan, his or her deductible contribution to a RRSP will be limited to the lesser of 18 per cent of the preceding year's earned income or the annual contribution limit. Therefore, 18 per cent of 1990 earned income will serve as the basis for 1991's contribution limit. Earned income of approximately $64,000 will allow a taxpayer to make the maximum contribution in 1991. Where the individual does participate in an employer-sponsored pension plan, the rules become more complex.

For members of a pension plan, the RRSP contribution limit will be calculated based on the company pension plan's benefit rate. An annual pension adjustment will be reported on each employee's T4 slip. The purpose of the pension adjustment is to put RRSPs for self-employed individuals on the same playing field as employees with RPPs. This adjustment will reduce the amount the employee can otherwise contribute to an RRSP. The first pension adjustment will be reported on 1990 T4 slips.

Taxpayers who do not contribute their maximum RRSP limit in a given year will be able to carry forward the unused excess for up to seven years, starting in 1991. This carryforward provision permits a taxpayer to make a tax-deductible contribution even if he has no earned income in that year. Any carryforward, however, that is not utilized within the seven-year period "falls off the table."

In 1990 and subsequent taxation years, periodic pension payments (including Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security payments) are no longer transferable to an RRSP on a tax-free basis. However, up until 1994, transfers of periodic pension payments from an RPP or a DPSP to a spousal RRSP will be permitted, up to an annual limit of $6,000 per year. This special contribution is in addition to the regular contribution limits.

Because the majority of banks and other financial institutions "kick in" their RRSP advertising campaigns to coincide with the March contribution deadline, most taxpayers make their annual contributions at that time. Taxpayers should consider making their RRSP contributions early in the year of deduction, since income earned in the plan remains sheltered from tax. Early contributions will also provide for larger balances in your RRSP at retirement time. Remember that 1991's contribution limit is based on 1990 earned income.

RRSPs don't necessarily have to be used only in the context of retirement planning. Sometimes it is good tax planning to withdraw funds from an RRSP prior to retirement. In years where a taxpayer's income is low, an RRSP withdrawal may be prudent since the tax rate that is applicable may be lower than usual.

In addition, if a low-income year follows a high-income year, an RRSP contribution in the first two months of the low-income year may be beneficial. This contribution can be deducted in the previous high-income year and withdrawn shortly thereafter to be taxed in the lower-income year, resulting in an approximate tax saving of $1,500 (based on the maximum 1990 contribution limit).

Consider contributing shares or other investments to an RRSP. This can be done in lieu of a cash contribution to an RRSP or to obtain cash contained in it.

RRSPs remain one of the most popular tax-assisted plans available to Canadian taxpayers. The new rules that are effective in 1991 will only enhance their reputation.

* * *

Aki Chencinski is a tax partner and Laurie Starkman is a tax manager in the Toronto chartered accounting firm, Birnbaum, Prenick, Stekel & Co. They are members of the Professional Advisory Committee of the United Jewish Welfare Fund, Endowment Fund.

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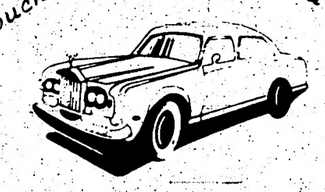

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We are pleased to be your new neighbour and look forward to being of service to you
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ALAN NEWTON - MANAGER

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

764-7200

ALAN NEWTON'S 1991 SALES TEAM

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

ZILA BERKOVICH

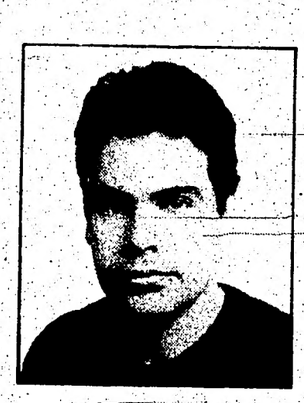
RIK BIRKEN

NATHAN BIRNBAUM

NEIL BOCKNEK

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

IRENE BUSHUEV

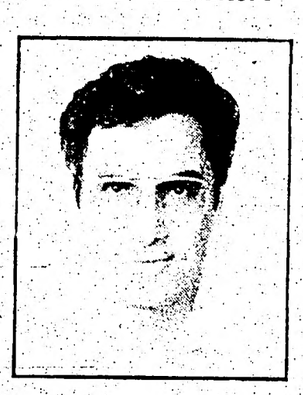


SAM COHEN

PEARLY DENNIS

MARY FENYES

KAROL FARB



JO FLEISCHMANN

CILA FLEISCHMANN

BETTY GOLDKIND

ANNETTE GOLDSTEIN

CLARA GREEN

MARLON GREEN

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

ESTHER GREENBAUM

ANDREA HALPERN

SHELLY HALPERN

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

ALEX HART

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

NORMAN HARTZMAN

RAYA KAMINSKI

BERTA KOGAN

LEON KOGAN

LENNA LANGER-GROSS

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LINDA LEVSTEIN

DAVID LIEBERMAN

ANNETTE LIPTON

MARK MCKAIG

ELLIE PARKER

PAUL PISTER

MAXINE POVERING

SARAH ROVET

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

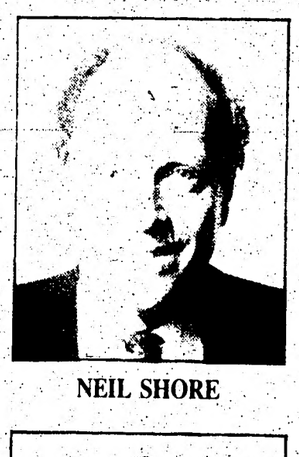
KAREN SELTZER

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

SUSAN SHAINHOUSE

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

FRAN SHARVIT



NEIL SHORE

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

ELIZABETH SHWARTZ

ALLEN SIDOFSKY

HOWARD SKOPITZ

VALERIE SPILNY

SARAH TAMIN

SHELLY TEICHBERG

KEN VEGOTSKY

KEN WILDER

HELEN WINER

LARRY WRONZBERG

DARLENE WRONZBERG

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

LORA YAKOBSON

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

ALONA ZAVET

1 Houses For Sale

Paul Slavens REAL ESTATE LIMITED

RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS
483-4337

FINE HOMES

VERY APPEALING
$895,000. Stunning 4 bedroom Tudor. Master with ensuite, gourmet kitchen, fin. lower level. Det. garage. Call *Eve Hillman.

EAST OF SPADINA
$859,000. Contemporary 4+ bdrms., main flr. den & family rm., renovated kitchen, central air/vac. Double garage. **Don Wagman.

FOREST HILL GEM
$949,000. Stunning 5 bedroom residence. Beautifully decorated. Central air. 190' deep south lot. Priced to sell! *Linda Rose.

STUNNING TOWNHOME
$639,000. Custom built- SOLD 4 bathrooms, family rm. & powder rm. Central air. C...y throughout! **Harold Hillman.

CEDARVALE GEM!
$549,000. Beautiful renovation. "Snaidero" kitchen, 4 bdrms., 3 new baths (incl. marble 4-pc. w/whirlpool). **Don Wagman.

PRIME CEDARVALE
$399,000. Centre hall plan. 3 bedrooms, spacious principal rooms, modern kitchen, fireplace, private drive. Call *Edie Winberg.

BATHURST/EGLINTON
$399,000. Delightful 2-storey, 4 bdrms., "White" kitchen, finished lower level. Thousands in extras. Call *Jack Solomon.

DAVISVILLE/YONGE
$489,000. Wonderful 3-storey, 4 bdrms., family rm. & powder rm. on main flr. Walk-out to deep garden. *Gayle Mitchell.

ALLENBY SCHOOL
$279,000. Detached 2+ bedroom Tudor bungalow. Modern kitchenn, bleached floors, finished lower level, sauna. *Gary Mitchell.

ST. CLAIR/BATHURST
$196,000. Beautifully updated 2-storey home. 2+ bedrooms, renovated "Beckerman" kitchen, fireplace, garage. *Shirley Sugar-Green.

ALEXANDRA WOOD
$479,000. Lovely 3+ bedroom, 3 bath home. Spacious eat-in kitchen, excellent lower level. Large lot. Call *Betty Cohen.

CORTLEIGH BLVD. — REDUCED!
NOW $1,050,000. Exceptional Lytton Park. Renovated to perfection! 6 bedrooms, family rm. overlooks ravine. *Linda Rose.

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

483-4337
RESIDENTIAL * COMMERCIAL * INVESTMENT

Paul Slavens REAL ESTATE LIMITED

RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS
483-4337

PARK-LIKE SETTING
$729,000. Centre hall. 3+ bedrooms (master ensuite with whirlpool), family rm. w/o. "Betz" Pool. 83' x 135' lot. *Erica Binder.

LAWRENCE/AVENUE RD.
$429,000. Lovely Cape Cod home. 2 bdrms. + tandem, 2 baths, family rm. with walk-out. Outstanding lot! Call *Linda Rose.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE
$659,000. Brand new 2-storey, 5 bedrooms, main flr. family rm., library, powder rm. & laundry rm. Dble. gar. *Barbara Kaplan.

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN
$519,000. Impressive 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, family room with fireplace & walk-out. Large lot. Great potential. *Syma Solomon.

CHIEFTAIN/FIFESHIRE
$1,395,000. Breathtaking 4 bdrm. residence. Outstanding main flr. family rm. + library, ultra kitchen. Call *Eve Hillman.

YORK MILLS/BANBURY
$589,000. Renovated 3+ bedroom bungalow. Master ensuite, white kitchen, family rm. Close to French Immersion. *Shelley Fine.

LUXURY CONDOMINIUMS

KING'S LANDING
$368,800. Exquisite one-of-a-kind. Large terrace. Insuite laundry. All amenities. Security. Call *Paul Goldenberg.

70 ROSEHILL
$799,000. Luxurious unit. Elegantly decorated. 2 bdrms. + den, living room w/fireplace. Outstanding upgrades. *Elayne Wortsman.

GRANITE PLACE
$410,000. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom corner suite. 2 car pkg. Indoor pool. Excellent security. **Margaret Heiman.

THE CHURCHILL
$839,000. Grand 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, family rm. with w/o, stunning custom built-ins. Parking. Call *Edie Winberg.

GLENCAIRN/BATHURST
$265,000. Spacious 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, neutral decor. Insuite laundry. Vendor will assist! Call *Edith Weiss.

YORK MILLS PLACE
$469,000. Lovely 2 bedrooms + den, 2½ baths, balcony facing ravine. 2 parking spaces. 24 hr. concierge. Call **Don Wagman.

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

483-4337
GET THE SIGN THAT GETS RESULTS

1 Houses For Sale

ALAN UNGERMAN REALTY LIMITED REALTOR — **731-7111**

BATHURST-PRUE STONEFRONT SIDESPLIT
Lg. 4 bdrm., mn. flr. fam. den Jeremy Scharf, 731-7111.

BATHURST-EGLINTON — 3 BD. BUNGALOW
On 39' x 140' lot, leaded glass, 2 stone firepl., wood trim throughout, in-law bsmnt. apt. Lg. lot. Vendor financing, 731-7111.

BATHURST MANOR — UPDATED BACKSPLIT
Beautiful 3+1 bdrm., w/o fam. rm., reduced! Gabby Goldring, 731-7111.

SPRING FARM — DESIREABLE LOCATION!
4 bdrm., mn. flr. fam. & den, fin. bsmnt., huge lot. Andy Reti, 731-7111.

BATHURST-CLARK — A BIT OF HEAVEN
5 bdrm. Premium lot, move in condition. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST-STEELES — YOUR BEST INVESTMENT
3 bdrm., ravine garden, fin bsmnt., appls., $229,900. Bella Beer, 731-7111.

BATHURST-CHABAD GATE — $249,900
3 bdrm. + nanny's rm., fin. bsmnt. Evelyn Pollock, 731-7111.

SPRING FARM — PRICED FOR QUICK SALE
Family-sized kitch., lg. fam. rm., dble. gar. Gabby Goldring 731-7111.

BATHURST CLARK — BLUE CHIP OFFERING
3 bdrm., ensuite, near all amenities, $229,900. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST-CHABAD GATE — 3 BDRM. TOWNHOUSE
W/o bsmnt., motivated vendor, $212,000. Jeremy Scharf, 731-7111.

BATHURST-ANTIBES — 3 BD. TOWNHOUSE
Move-in cond., fin. bsmnt., immaculate! Steve Fisher, 731p7111.

BATHURST/CLARK
Super family home! 2-sty, 4 bdrms, main fl family & laundry rms, finished bsmt with nanny's rm & washroom. Move-in condition!!! Marsha Goldstein 229-4454.

BATHURST/EGLINTON
Lots of house! 2-sty, centre hall, 4 bdrms, main fl family rm & powder rm, finished rec rm with w/o, 2 fireplaces. Location!!! Marsha Goldstein 229-4454.

ATKINSON/ARNOLD
Great lot! 100 ft. x 150 ft. Super exposure south/west. $529,000.00. Marsha Goldstein 229-4454.

BAYVIEW & HWY. #7 - 1216 sq. ft.
2 bedroom condo, 2 washrooms, south view. Grey & white decor. Marsha Goldstein 229-4454.

BAYVIEW & 16TH - 2200 sq. ft.
3 bdrm freehold townhouse, single car garage. Walkout from kitchen, dining rm & rec rm. Grey & white decor. Marsha Goldstein 229-4454.

HOMELIFE/PARTNERS REALTY INC.

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

SANDRINGHAM-AVENUE RD. OVER 4,200 SQ. FT!
$989,000. 4 bdrms, nanny's quarters, 2 marble firepl's, 86 pot lights, huge 2 story foyer, magnificent. Marlon Green 764-7200.

BATHURST-HWY 7 "GREEN PARK BUILT"
$389,900. Over 2,700 sq. ft, 4 bdrms, upgraded oak staircase to bsmt, upgraded kit, partially fin bsmt. Larry Wronzberg 764-7200.

BATHURST-CLARK 1ST AD! OVER 2,400
4 bdrms, large foyer, oversized family rm, fireplace, ceramics, upgraded kit + walk-out. Clara Green 764-7200.

ROSEDALE NORTH REDUCED TO $270,000
4 bdrm, finished bsmt, main family rm, greenhouse kit, professionally decorated, double garage. Al Sidofsky 764-7200.

BATHURST SOUTH OF WILSON
Immaculate 3 bdrm bungalow, 45' x 132' lot, finished bsmt, great price. Nathan Birnbaum 764-7200.

BATHURST-CENTRE OVER 1,900 SQ. FT!
$249,900. Lux Townhome, fin bsmt, over sized kit + w/o, cathedral ceilings, huge master suite. Marlon Green 764-7200.

BATHURST-STEELES VALUE PRICED!
$229,900. 3 bdrm, finished bsmt, many extras, great starter home. Call Al Sidofsky 764-7200.

BATHURST-STEELES $199,900
Value!! 3 bdrm det, fin bsmt, ceramics, great starter. Call Neil Bocknek 764-7200.

CONDOS

BATHURST-FINCH "SAVOY" 2,100 SQ. FT.
Ultimate luxury, 2 balconies, overlooking downtown, must be seen. Berta Kogan 764-7200.

BATHURST-CLARK "CONSERVATORY" 1,700 SQ. FT.
Corner Unit! 2 bdrm + den + solarium, a gem, priced to sell. Berta Kogan 764-7200.

CONSERVATORY 1,650' + 3 TERRACES
Just listed! Unique! Must sell! A bargain! Berta Kogan 764-7200.

BATHURST-FINCH "HEMISPHERES"
Largest corner! 2 bdrm + den, best view on park, huge kitchen, solarium Berta Kogan 764-7200.

BATHURST-STEELES SOUTH CORNER
2 bdrm + den, overlooking park, large kitchen, parquet floors, many extra. Leon Kogan 764-7200.

"WE TURN *REALTY* INTO *REALITY*"

***BATHURST & BETTY ANN DRIVE**
Prestigious location. Much sought after backsplit model. 3 bedrooms+ large country kitchen. Open plan living and dining area. Master en suite. Above ground windows and walkout from lower level. Wet bar. C.A.C. Very private 50' lot. Best price and value in area. $329,900. Call L. Linden 222-8600 or res. 222-0800.

RE/MAX REALTRON REALTY INC.

SEIDMAN REAL ESTATE LIMITED/REALTOR 633-7373

BATHURST-YORK DOWNS
New quality built 4 bdrm, den, fam. rm. Huge liv. & din. Custom kit. W/o. Many extras.

SHEPPARD-BATHURST
4 bdrm. on one level. Spac. liv. & din. Up to date kit. Built in appl., den, fam. rm. Skylight, rec. rm., firepl. Dbl. gar. steps to all.

WILMINGTON-OVERBROOK
3 bdrm, den. L-shape liv. & din. New kit., 2 bath, fin. bsmnt., gar.

AVENUE RD. - ELM RD.
5 rms., 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Separate liv. & din. New kit., built in appl., rec. rm., 2 firepl., gar. A1 buy.

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

Canada Trust Realty

BATHURST-LAWRENCE
Choice of 3 fabulous homes - $245,000 — 2 bdrm bung, fin. bsmt - 50 x 125 lot - walk to synagogue - $269,000 - 3 bdrm, 1½ storey - remodelled kit, shows to perfection - 50 x 120 - $495,000 new home - 3,800 sq. ft. - D. Abraham 783-3333.

GLENCAIRN SUBWAY
Choice of condo! 1-2-3 bdrm - $135,000 - 1 bdrm - fab view, 750 sq. ft. - $149,000 - 2 bdrm - upgraded - $169,000 - 2 bdrm corner 3pc. enst - $195,000 - 3 bdrm + laund enst - walk to subway, synagogue, pool & sauna. D. Abraham 783-3333.

***BATHURST-WILSON**
$359,000 Space galore. Huge master bdrm, 3 baths, east-in kitchen. Fin. bsmt. Central air. *Sheila Ramsay 487-4311.

ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE SERVICES LTD. REALTOR

LARNELL REAL ESTATE LIMITED

POWER OF SALE

- Birchmount-Danforth, 4-plex $309,000.
- Jane-Lawrence. Rooming House. Now $274,900.
- Queen-Lansdowne. 3 family home, excellent condition. Reduced to sell $229,000.
- McCowan-Eglinton ... SOLD ...g., in-law apt. Reduced to sell im...ely. $189,900.
- Pape & Mortimer. Reduced! $182,900.
- Jane-Lawrence, $169,000, semi, 2 stry, 2 units.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

- We have residential rentals in Thornhill, North York, Newmarket, Toronto, Brampton & Scarboro.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

- North Yonge St. Plaza 875 sq. ft. Established location.
- Thornhill Plaza - Office Space from 390 sq. ft. - 2,400 sq. ft.

SHELDON LAIWINT 733-0888

1 Houses For Sale

n. s. smith REALTOR

CLARK-BATHURST
CONSERVATORY, 2 Condos. Drastically reduced: $229,000, 2 bdrms., 2 baths; or $199,000. 2 bdrms., 2 baths. Pick out square footage. Sally Rosen, 884-4425.

ANTIBES/BATHURST
Luxury 2-bdrm. condo, 2 full baths, wraparound balc., fabulous location. Sally Rosen, 884-4425.

2 Houses For Sale Private

Reduced $50,000 until end of January before being listed. Palm Drive, exclusive cul-de-sac, 4 bedroom backsplit, 4 bathrooms, 30' family room with fireplace, dream kitchen, main floor laundry, finished basement. 633-9934. 3294

Luxury living at Bathurst and Clark. 3,000 square feet, 4/5 bedroom, 4 washrooms, plus professionally finished basement with nanny's quarters. Upgrades galore! Party size kitchen. 25' family room. Lot size 62'x120', all brick, fenced, interlocking driveway. Beautifully landscaped. Walk to shopping, synagogue, schools, parks. Only 4 years old. Only $399,000. Bob 460-2975. No agents please. 3108

REAL ESTATE

1 Houses For Sale

TAL-RAM
REAL ESTATE BROKER

789-4325

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
Make an offer on this superb 1 bdrm patio garden condo in small intimate building.

• • •

ST. CLAIR W. — SALE/RENT
Traditional 2 storey home in highly desirable area. Newly renovated kitchen and bathroom. For sale at $499,000; Rent $1,700/mo.

• • •

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE
Magnificent reno with "all the bells & whistles." Private garage at rear. Nanny's quarters. Shows to perfection. $549,000.

• • •

YONGE/LAWRENCE
Centrally located "Homes & Gardens" restoration. Main Floor Family Rm. & powder Rm. Drastically reduced to $499,000.

• • •

CASTLEFIELD/CALDOW
Charming 3 bdrm, totally renovated home; 3 baths incl. fabulous master ensuite. Walkout from lower level. Just reduced to $579,000.

• • •

RUNNYMEDE/ST. CLAIR
Power of Sale. Handyman's special. Potential in-law suite. Must sell! Drastically reduced to $129,000.

• • •

BATHURST/ST. CLAIR
Great "yuppie" semi in prime location. Thousands spent on renovations. $249,900.

• • •

DUFFERIN/ST. CLAIR
Power of Sale. Needs some TLC. Priced for a quick sale at $369,900.

• • •

BATHURST/FINCH
Vendor anxious to sell this 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in luxury bldg.; lowest price - a steal at $169,000.

Faithe Sversky
785-4325

2 Houses For Sale Private

Castle Loma/Lower Forest Hill - Renovated, fully detached house. Appliances included. High ceilings. Bright kitchen. Glass sliding doors. New deck. 4 garages. Parking space. All on large lot. Well priced for the area. 968-7788. 3206

Thornhill. Bathurst/ Atkinson, Court/ ravine. 3000 s.f. 4 bedrooms. Magnificent kitchen/ breakfast with walk-out. Huge deck. Nanny's quarters. $399,900. 881-6499. No Shabbos calls. 3328

3 Houses For Rent

Bayview & York Mills
Ranch bungalow, main fl. family rm. Master bdrm/suite, double garage, 6 appl. Partially furnished, central air, alarm. 6 mo. with option.
225-7152

Bathurst/Glencairn - 3 bedroom home + basement apartment. Available February 15. 483-5100. 3173

Spacious fully renovated house. 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Large kitchen. Double garage. Lots of storage space. Basement separate. Bathurst/ Ranee. Close to Yorkdale TTC. Asking $1100 plus utilities. Available January 1. Non-smokers. References. 784-0926. 3278

4 Houses For Rent/Sale

Ottawa townhouse, condo, 3 bedroom, Euro-kitchen, near synagogues, shopping, schools, mint condition. 613-725-0447. 3311

6 Condominiums For Sale

LUXURY CONDO
$419K
$100K REDUCTION
40 OAKLANDS 2 floor Connoiseur suite w/marble frpl, appraised $600K, 2 + 1 bdrms, 3 baths. Avenue Rd. & Cottingham, S.E. view, 1800 sq. ft., 2 terraces, security, cent. air & cent. vac, 7 appliances, hdwd floors, heated garage + 30 car indoor guest pkg. 4% to agents.
399-6010

• **PRIMROSE I.** 2 bd. $187,900. Perry Waisglass, 731-7111.
• **PROMENADE.** 1,400 sq. ft., $229,000. Jeremy Scharf, 731-7111.
• **333 CLARK.** 1,800 sq. ft., decorated, Bella Beer, 731-7111
• **343 CLARK.** 2 bd., balc., $199,900. Bella Beer, 731-7111.
UNGERMAN RLTY. RLTR.

6 Condominiums For Sale

SKYMARK REVIEW DON MILLS & FINCH
SKYMARK I: choices of 2-bdrm. + sol. Good bargain.
CLASSIC: PENTHOUSE; a home w/roof gdn. for a connoisseur. 2 bdrm., fam., skylights, f.p., high ceiling + more. Priced right.
ELEGANCE: PENTHOUSE: a masterpiece, appr. 2,600 sq.'; 2 b.r., fam., den (3rd b.r.), 5 skylights, f.p., sauna, cathedral ceiling, huge Japanese landsc., roof gdn.; vacant. $599,000. For our updated inventory call Santee Leung, **THE SKYMARK SPECIALIST,** 441-2003/24 hr. on call; carphone + pager. **SANTEE REALTY INC.**

7 Condominiums For Rent

SKYMARK Elegance: penthouse, approx. 2,600 sq. ft. + roof gdn., skylights, f.p. Santee Leung, 441-2003. Santee Rlty. Inc.

Promenade. New. 2 bedroom, 2 baths. 5 appliances. Parking. Immediate. 447-1726. 3334

8 Condominiums For Rent/Sale

3000 Bathurst. 1 bedroom + den. 8th floor. 886-5302. 3201

10 Accommodation Available

Male student wanted for dogsitting and a little help around the house, in exchange for room and board. References. Lawrence/Bathurst area. Box 9887 CJN. 3081

12 Shared Accommodation

Female seeks roomate, non-smoker, 20-25 to share apartment at Rosebury Square. Sharon, 783-0664. 3299

Female non-smoker to share house with a med student. $500 plus utilities. Bathurst and Eglinton. Steps to subway. 785-7842, leave a message. 3069

Non-smoking M/F roommate wanted to share large 2 bedroom apt. in Yonge/ Eglinton area. $450/ month. Call 486-4005. 3314

Bathurst/Highway 7 - If you are a mature non-smoker you can enjoy this lovely new 2600 s.f. home. Call now, Sheryl, 661-1100, or evenings, 770-3368. 3330

Bathurst/Lawrence - Large furnished 2 bedroom apartment. Great location. Female (27) to share with same. Student ideal. TTC. Laundry. Parking. Available immediately. 785-4434. 3306

Female non-smoker for completely furnished 2 bedroom condo. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, microwave, outdoor pool. Bayview/Sheppard. Close to 401 and buses. $550. 223-8452. 3175

13 Apartments For Rent

Bathurst/Clarke - New basement apartment. 1 bedroom, living-dining room, laundry, garage, new kitchen appliances. Available immediately. 978-5042. Non-smokers only. 3276

Wilmington/Overbrooke - Furnished basement apartment. Non-smoker. No Saturday calls. 633-2830. 3302

13 Apartments For Rent

Luxurious Penthouse
Eglinton-Roselawn area
Approx. 2,400 sq. ft.
By app't only
Call 733-3000
between 9-5 weekdays

Bathurst/Wilson - Furnished bachelor basement. Own entrance. Non-smoker. $425 inclusive. 633-3187. 3324

Bathurst/Steeles - Basement apartment. Free in exchange for housekeeping. Non-smokers. 731-3211. 3309

Bathurst/Wilson - Luxury 1 bedroom basement. Own entrance. Newly decorated. New appliances. Near park. Private patio. Quiet home. Parking. Air conditioned. $425. 533-8903, 630-3860. 3207

19 Cottages For Rent

Huntsville. Gorgeous 3 bedroom chalet on ski hill. Fully equipped. Available weekly. January- April. After 5pm, 449-8922. 3275

20 Cottages For Sale

Selling thousands below price paid- Lake Simcoe. 100' waterfront, year-round cottage/chalet. 3 bedroom, 16 year old structure, 65 minutes from Toronto at Mara Beach (Beaverton). $289,000. Mr. Marks, 256-4784. 3187

23 Florida Property For Rent

CENTURY VILLAGE WEST PALM BEACH
1 BEDROOM
1 BATH
Available immediately to end of March. Minimum 2 months.
787-7506

Inverrary. Luxury furnished, 2 baths, health club. Now/ April. $1,500U.S. monthly. 313-661-1253. 3152

24 Florida Property For Sale

Fountains of Lake Worth. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo. Completely furnished. Move in condition. Ground floor, opposite pool, fairway view. Golf, tennis, clubhouse. Low maintenance. Reduced price. By owner, telephone 407-966-9572. 3204

California Club
Sale/Rent
Prime location, across from Williams Island Country Club. Large 1 bedroom, 1½ bath. Totally upgraded. 24 hour doorman. Immediate possesion. Unprecedented value at a reduced price. 305-653-2744. 3312

BOCA RATON
New sales or resales. Specializing in country club communities: Boca West, Boca Pointe, Polo Club, St. Andrews, Broken Sound, Boca Grove.
Jerry Lampert Real Estate, Inc.
(407) 483-6820

Miami Beach luxury convertible. Extra large kitchen. Overlooking Ocean. 7135 Collins. Furnished. Immediate occupancy. $69,900. 631-0818, 305-672-3131, Mrs. Klein. No Shabbos calls. 3326

24 Florida Property For Sale

3 Islands/Hallandale - 2½ bedroom condo. Interior decorated. Southeast exposure on water. 449-2200, 305-458-0066. 3190

27 Israel Properties

PROPERTY IN ISRAEL WANTED
WE PAY CASH
REAL ESTATE • Buy/Sell Apartments, Commercial, Land
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ISRAEL DEVELOPMENT CO.
645 5th Ave., East Wing, 6th Floor, NYO 10022
A Full Professional Service Organization.

Property in Israel wanted. All kinds. Call Mr. Jacobs. 633-4702. 3305

Israel properties wanted, willing to pay in cash dollars. Zohars 882-6071. 3339

28 Out-Of-Town Properties

McGILL UNIVERSITY
CONDO SALE
Our daughter has enjoyed a secure, new (at the time) condominium for the past 3 years, ideally located on *University between Pine & Prince Arthur.*
• 2 bdrms. • approx. 1200'
• fully broadloomed • 5 appls.
• firepl. *Asking $158,000*
416-789-2358

MOVING TO OTTAWA?
Call **ETHEL BLOOM,** sales representative Canada Trust Realty **(613) 226-8790**
Res. 613-737-3168

38 Announcements

(ANNOUNCEMENT)

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• New Home H.U.D.A.C. Inspections
*Pre Closing *Pre Year End
Comprehensive written & verbal reports on site only $185.00
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39 Social Announcements

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46 Employment Opportunities

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51 Domestic Help Wanted

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52 Personals

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54 Personal Companions

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54 Personal Companions

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55 Obituaries

Lamb, Diana on Monday, December 17, 1990 at Toronto Western Hospital. Diana Lamb beloved wife of Joseph. Loving mother & mother-in-law of Ruth & Mickey Kenedy. Devoted grandmother of Steven Rayson, Rivanne Lopatin, & Andrea Rayson, and Rob, & Steven Kenedy. Dear sister & sister-in-law of Arthur & Mae Freeman, Sydney & Ivy Freeman, and Eva Woolf. Services were held at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. on Tuesday, December 18 at 11:30 am. Interment Beth Sholom Synagogue section of Mt. Sinai Memorial Park. 3296

Richmond, Gertrude on Friday, December 21, 1990 at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Gertrude Richmond beloved wife of the late Abraham. Loving mother & mother-in-law of Yetta Rose & Sydney Shubert, Hillel & Rose of England. Devoted grandmother of Adrian, & Edward Raymond Shubert, & Saul Richmond & great grandmother of Esther Shubert. She will be sadly missed by her many friends at the Baycrest Terrace & J.H.A. At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel 2401 Steeles Ave. W. (1 block west of Dufferin) for service on Sunday, December 23 at 12:00 noon. Interment Beth David Synagogue section of Pardes Shalom Cemetery. Memorial donations to Baycrest Centre would be appreciated. 3297

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55 Obituaries

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Kurt Fleischer on Dec 7/90, late of 48 Heydon Pk. Rd.
Frank Gorbet on Dec 7/90, late of 162 Church St. West.
Sam Wainberg on Dec 8/90, late of 3896 Bathurst St. #101.
Chaim Milecki Dec 9/90, late of 1 Meadowbrook Rd. #5.
Bruce Stein on Dec 8/90, late of 65 John St.
Sue Jacobs on Dec 8/90, late of 4005 Bayview Ave. #514.
Ruth Macks on Dec 9/90, late of 1955 Steeles Ave. East.
Honey Karn on Dec 12/90, late of 86 Acton Ave.
Samuel Pelchovitz on Dec 11/90, late of 34 Elm Ridge Dr.
Yetta Lindsky on Dec 12/90, late of 3560 Bathurst St. (Baycrest).
Lillian Sandler on Dec 12/90, late of 6000 Bathurst St. #1101.
Becky Binstock on Dec 12/90, late of 4350 Bathurst St. #302.
Morris Kasman on Dec 12/90, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
Fay Wainberg on Dec 12/90, late of 80 Antibes Dr. #1806.
Mary Gray on Dec 12/90, late of Lincoln Place Nursing Home.
Morris Gross on Dec 12/90, late of 70 Rosehill Ave. #601.
Ricardo Dermer on Dec 12/90, late of 36 Denmark Cres.
Norman Strauss on Dec 14/90, late of 45 Tournament Dr.
Elsa Burman on Dec 13/90, late of 351 Ridley Blvd.
Morris Taerk on Dec 12/90, late of 355 St. Clair W. #1805.
Kurt Kleiner on Dec 13/90, late of 19 Lower Village Gate #311.
Celia Dorovin on Dec 16/90, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
Ernest Weissberger on Dec 16/90, late of 100 Canyon Ave. #407.
Lilian Yakubowitz on Dec 16/90, late of 44 Old English Lane.
Diana Lamb on Dec 17/90, late of 839 Roselawn Ave. #603.
Stanley Neiman on Dec 16/90, late of 22 West 15 Street.
Harry Walker on Dec 17/90, late of 10 Ridgewood Rd.
Jean Sugar on Dec 17/90, late of 2700 Bathurst St. #114.
Gertrude Goodman on Dec 17/90, late of 21 Mayfair Ave. #1001.
Moe Dunkelman on Dec 18/90, late of 21 Mayfair Ave. #510.
Robert Feldman on Dec 18/90, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W. #210.
Miriam Lipsey on Dec 19/90, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvd. #201.
Hilda Pepper on Dec 20/90, late of 650 Briar Hill #607.
Esther Seligman on Dec 21/90, late of 100 Antibes Dr. #1402.
Gertrude Richmond on Dec 21/90, late of Baycrest.
Louis Brownstein on Dec 21/90, late of Lincoln Place N.H.
Bessie Kozak on Dec 21/90, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
Kalmon Peress on Dec 23/90, late of 123 Warren Rd.
Harry Kates on Dec 22/90, late of Cheltenham Nursing Home.
Ronald Gliddon on Dec 22/90, late of 48 Belinda Square.
Helen Burstein on Dec. 24/90, late of 142 Midland Ave.
Solomon Zidenberg on Dec 26/90, late of 32 Bainbridge Ave.

3307

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Israeli-Soviet seminar held

REHOVOT — The first-ever Israeli-Soviet seminar on peptides and proteins opened Dec. 23 at the Weizmann Institute — marking another milestone in the steadily improving relations between Israel and the Soviet Union during the glasnost era.

Taking part in the seminar were 19 top Soviet scientists from leading research centres of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences in the Moscow area: the Shemyakin Institute for Bio-Organic Chemistry, the Institute of Molecular Biology, the Institute of Protein Research, and the Institute of Immunology.

Also attending were 25 Israeli scientists from the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University and Bar Ilan University.

Weizmann Institute professor Avraham Patchornik, who initiated the seminar and who — along with Shemyakin Institute director Prof. Vadim Ivanov — is serving as a chairperson, said that this meeting was largely the fruit of personal ties between Israel and Soviet scientists stemming back to the early 1960s.

Seminar organizer Prof. Yigal Burstein, head of the Weizmann Institute's Department of Organic Chemistry, expressed the hope that this would be the first in an ongoing series of seminars to be held alternately in Israel and the Soviet Union.

The subjects discussed include the structure and function of proteins and peptides (protein fragments) in different biological systems, with particular emphasis on the immune system. Various methods for the production of peptides — including the chemical, enzymatic and genetic engineering approaches — will be discussed as well. Also on the agenda are tours to selected high-tech industries, among them the Dead Sea Bromine Group.

55 Obituaries

Applebaum, Sylvia on December 20, 1990, late of 155 Marlee Ave., #510.
Caplan, Helen on December 21, 1990, late of 7601 Bathurst St., #104.
Freed, Murray on December 16, 1990, late of 625 Roselawn Ave., #301.
Goodman, Fanny on December 20, 1990, late of Baycrest Home For The Aged.
Gruman, Joseph on December 18, 1990.
Grunfeld, Yanka on December 22, 1990, late of 88 Rockford Rd.
Marantz, Rose on December 21, 1990, late of 18 Renoak Drive.
Resnikoff, (Mushell) Margot on December 19, 1990.
Sliwowicz, Edan on December 18, 1990, late of 38 Stave Crescent.
Szyjewicz, Regina on December 17, 1990, late of 107 Almore Avenue.
Antflick, Esther on December 25, 1990, late of Cheltenham Nursing Home.
Cohen, Samuel on December 26, 1990.
Gold, Rose on December 25, 1990, late of 3171 Bathurst St.
Hershtal, Ruth on December 30, 1990, late of 3636 Bathurst St., #503.
Humphrey, Susan on December 24, 1990, late of 94 Uno Drive.
Khurgel, Eva on December 26, 1990, late of 25 Pebble Byway Unit 20.
Pechman, Celia on December 29, 1990.
Shtromvasser, Moysha on December 27, 1990.
Sugarman, Adele on December 28, 1990.

Steeles-College Memorial Chapel

Rothman tells Network convention:

No winners seen if war breaks out in Middle East

By
DAVID LAZARUS

MONTREAL —

One of the "great tragedies" coming out of the Middle East is that even liberal voices in Israel have come to realize that their approach vis-a-vis the Palestinians has collapsed, a formed advisor to former U.S. president Richard Nixon said at the recent Network annual convention.

John Rothman, addressing the opening Network dinner at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, listed notable Israelis like Abba Eban and MKs Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni, as among those who have come to that demoralizing conclusion.

"Now the centre and the right only are dominating," Rothman said. "It is a broad national consensus, with even those in favor of a Palestinian state saying it must be dimilitarized.

Rothman, the keynote speaker, was clearly at home with the students, and vice-versa. Rothman has attended every Network convention since its inception and has been a hit with students, who listen almost spellbound to his booming voice and freewheeling, theatrical style.

In describing the complexity of the situation, Rothman quoted Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, who had reminded journalists that "the Mideast is not the Midwest."

Rothman said there will be no winners if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, "and the odds are there will be war."

And although the anti-Iraq coalition will likely dominate, it won't be a walk, he said. Rothman put little store in such terms as "surgical strikes" against Iraq. And he was not sure an alternative — like "carpet"-bombing — is "do-able."

The United States' sudden ability to sit down with Syria was also no surprise to Rothman, who termed it all part of the strategy to juggle alignments as the situation warrants.

And if the policy seems contradictory, it is, "but contradictory policy — in the Mideast — is consistent."

In Rothman's mind, the Persian Gulf crisis is the result of a "power vacuum" in the Gulf precipitated by the U.S.S.R.'s withdrawal as a real power in the region, with Iraq trying to fill the gap.

Rothman had no illusions about why the U.S.-based coalition was there. It's not to "defend democracy" — but to protect the 40 per cent of world oil reserves flowing from the Gulf.

Rothman told students that the biggest problem they faced now was being "functionally illiterate" in the face of record levels of anti-Israel activity on campuses.

His advice was for students to arm themselves accordingly through consultations at the convention and to "take what we learn back to the campuses.

He said Network continues to be the "heart" of the Jewish student activist movement and has as its basic challenge, "to be a Jew in a free society."

But Rothman added part of that freedom is the freedom to "disappear" as a Jew or to identify publicly and strongly. "We have the ability to make that choice."

He said, "(Jim) Keegstras are not the norm," with the "vast majority" of Canadians tolerant and open-minded.

Earlier at the opening event, Israeli Consul General Itzchak Levanon praised the 200 student delegates for bearing the "torch of continuity."

Levanon condemned the most recent U.S.-supported "narrow and one-sided" United Nations resolution against Israel and said students' "strength and ideas are needed more important than ever before.

"I'm convinced your presence will be felt," he told the students, and praised the "ambitious and dynamic conference."

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G.M.C. Construction Ltd. Commercial, residential, additions, renovations. Interior and exterior professionals, drywalling, tiling, carpentry, driveways, interlocks, concrete work, waterproofing, etc. Free estimates. Gino, Business: 633-7935, Home: 638-5842. 3247

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Stern Photography. 778-0552. 3151

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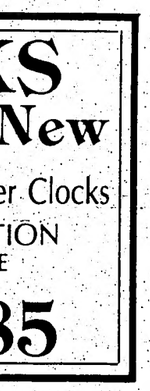

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Supplement to The Canadian Jewish News, Jan. 10, 1991

Viewpoints

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 1, 1991 | THE CANADIAN JEWISH PERIODICAL

Israel and the Gulf Crisis

by Harold M. Waller

Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and the resulting international crisis have brought about major changes on the world scene that have serious implications for Israel. It is hard to believe that just a few months ago, we were revelling in the end of the Cold War and the effective removal of the threat of East-West military conflict. Soviet bloc nations in central and eastern Europe were asserting their independence and transforming their economic and social systems. The heady days of 1989-90 appeared to vindicate the positions of those who had called for a firm stance against the Soviet Union. Despite the knowledge that there was always at least one conflict going on somewhere in the world, people in the West felt that for the first time in over 40 years it might be possible to relax a bit. There was even excited talk in the United States about the manifold ways in which the "peace dividend" might be utilized.

Israel was never able to relax in the same way. Even if Soviet support for the Arab cause was waning, enemies and potential enemies of Israel constituted an ongoing threat to Israeli security. Both the Cold War and Israel's wars with the Arabs began in 1948. Only the first of these appeared to be over at the start of 1990. In addition, Israel had to contend with the constant nuisance of Arab terrorism, with occasional deadly results, and the Palestinian *intifada*, with its explicit challenge to Israel's continuing ability to maintain control of the territories. Israel's hold on Judea, Samaria, and Gaza was further jeopardized by growing international opposition to its continuation as well as the internal political debate concerning the country's long term strategy. With regard to that debate, the Israeli public had been unable to decide whether to try to keep the territories under direct control indefinitely, to seek to use them as bargaining chips in a settlement based on some sort of territorial compromise, or to develop a governmental system for the Palestinian Arabs in the territories based on the idea of autonomy.

Kuwait Invasion Watershed for Israel

The Iraqi takeover of Kuwait may well come to be seen as a watershed for Israel, even though Israel had no direct involvement in that event. It has changed Israel's perspective and situation significantly, introducing dramatic new elements into Israel's strategic calculus. Most importantly, the Gulf crisis has made the threat of general war immediate and consequential for Israel. Whereas in the past, Iraq was always an enemy that had to be taken into account and in fact had fought against Israel, now there was a possibility that Israel could become the focus of Iraq's military efforts, especially if this were considered a desirable way to divert attention from the Gulf, sow discord within the presumably fragile Arab-Western coalition, and solidify the Arabs against the West. Even if it proves possible for Israel to avert war with Iraq in 1990-91, a scenario that ends the Gulf crisis with Saddam Hussein's military might intact raises the specter of him unleashing an attack on Israel at a time of his choosing within the first half of the 1990's. The distribution of gas masks to Israelis underscores the seriousness with which the situation is viewed.

Israel's posture during the first two months of the crisis was correct; it stayed on the sidelines and out of the headlines. The problem, however, was that 23 years after the Six Day War the task of condemning

Harold Waller *is Chairman of the Editorial Board of* Viewpoints. *He is Professor of Economics at McGill University in Montreal.*

"WITH A BIG, WHITE DOLL" BY DINA PODOLSKY
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Iraq's acquisition of Kuwait by force while defending Israel's acquisition of the territories by force became increasingly difficult. Even if many people were to concede that the situation in 1990 differed profoundly from that of 1967, the notion that indefinite occupation of the territories (pending a final peace settlement between Israel and its neighbours) was legitimate came into question. And there were many others who could not or would not remember 1967. Thus a world which has become more disposed to the Palestinian cause in recent years was ripe for the suggestion that as long as attention was focused on the Middle East anyway, all outstanding disputes ought to be settled. Of course the only dispute other than Kuwait that anyone had in mind was the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Saddam Attempts Linkage Between Kuwaiti and Israeli Questions

Saddam Hussein cleverly introduced the idea of linkage between the two issues into the political and diplomatic debate. That move, at no cost to him, has the virtue of embarrassing the United States, making the Arab states in the coalition uneasy, and complicating the efforts to force him to relinquish his aggressive conquest. To its credit, the UN Security Council has kept the focus of its resolutions on the Kuwait question. But this has not prevented hints from being dropped, notably by presidents Bush and Mitterand, to the effect that indeed the time had come to do something about the Arab-Israeli conflict. Presumably what they had in mind was international pressure to guide the parties into a satisfactory settlement, according to their own lights, a process of which Israel has always been profoundly and correctly skeptical.

U.S. Changing its Position Vis-à-vis Israel

Until now, Israel has been able to count on the backing of the U.S. to resist any attempt to force it into a process which might lead to an imposed settlement that would jeopardize Israel's vital interests. If necessary the U.S. would presumably veto an unfriendly resolution. But at least two things have changed in this regard. First of all, the international community has seen the virtues of co-operation in a crisis situation. The breakdown of Soviet-American hostility has made possible the kind of Security Council action envisioned by the UN's founders in 1945. Thus if an international consensus exists, the Council can act decisively, and presumably adopt measures with teeth. Secondly, for some time, Israel's position vis-à-vis the Security Council has been protected by the threat or actual use of the American veto. So long as the U.S. is prepared to persist in its pro-Israel posture, Israel can be shielded from any binding legal action in the Council. But should the American position change, Israel would find itself extremely exposed. Thus Israel is only one vote away from such a situation. (For the record, Canada's two-year term on the Council is ending. In any event, its vote does not matter, though we might speculate on our government's position if forced to vote on what amounted to an imposed settlement.)

For the U.S. to shift its political position in the UN would not require a massive shift in the substance of its position on the terms of a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ever since the late 1960s, the U.S. has taken the view that the bulk of the occupied territories ought to be relinquished in exchange for peace. From the American perspective, long-term Israeli retention of Judea and Samaria is not really an option. And President Bush has even accentuated the issue of those parts of Jerusalem east of the Green Line, especially in the wake of the debacle on the Temple Mount on Succot. What has kept the U.S. behind Israel has been the conviction that a reasonable peace settlement with parties other than Egypt was not possible. But should that perception change, would the U.S. government continue to back the Israeli government? Thus the precedent of the effort to utilize collective security in the case of Iraq could easily be invoked against Israel. It would not be necessary to declare Israel's 1967 territorial acquisitions as aggression. An Israeli refusal to withdraw in the face of a Security Council offer of what the UN body regards as a fair settlement might be enough to trigger action against Israel. Consequently the Iraq crisis has created a situation fraught with danger for Israel in two dimensions: the battlefield and the diplomatic arena.

Is the Iraqi Invasion Good for Israel?

When Iraq took over Kuwait, an understandable first reaction was that this was good for Israel. The invasion deflected attention away from Israel, demonstrated that Israel confronts real military dangers, split the Arab world, and discredited the PLO cause and

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

HAROLD WALLER offers us a knowledgeable and insightful analysis of Israel's position in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In his words the Kuwait invasion is a "watershed" in Mideast politics, which are now taking on a completely new configuration. His conclusion is that Israel's options have now narrowed and the time frame for decisive action has been drastically shortened. The status quo is no longer an option.

H. David Kirk describes in his introduction the unusual circumstances which led him to send us a letter written in 1943 by Pierre Van Paassen.

Sally Zerker has written a nostalgic memoir of the early days of her family's history in Toronto, one with which many readers will empathize as they recall their own very similar experiences. What we are left with is a message of family solidarity, courage and hope which helped them survive despite the enormous handicaps of inexperience and lack of business acumen.

Barry Levy provides an interesting survey of the recent exhibition in Montreal, *Planets, Potions and Parchments*. He challenges the common perception that the Jewish religious tradition was and is today disinterested if not actually opposed to the scientific and technological advances that have transformed today's world. He recalls for us the involvement of Jewish scholars in early scientific endeavours which in fact inspired the early pioneers of the scientific era that opened at the end of the 18th century.

Michael Greenstein recalls the glory days of Jewish writers in Winnipeg during the first half of the twentieth century. Unfortunately, demography has dictated a decline in the Jewish population of that city and that in turn has sparked an exodus to the Eastern and the Western portions of our continent. He pays tribute to Winnipeg's contribution to the development of Canadian Jewish culture.

ISRAEL AND THE GULF

continued from page 1

leaders. A veritable *dayenu*. But as the situation unfolded it became clear that a byproduct of the Gulf crisis was the creation of circumstances where Israel might perceive its vital interests to be threatened, either by military or diplomatic action. The problem was exacerbated by the deterioration of the relationship with the U.S.. This was caused in part by the Temple Mount incident, but also by the dynamic of the relationship between the Americans and the anti-Iraq Arabs such as Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. President Bush's friendly meeting with Syrian President Assad in November only served to publicize what was occurring anyway: an expanding American role in the region, but one which played down any connection with Israel. Undoubtedly Israel continued to loom large in any U.S. strategic calculations, but the focus of diplomacy was clearly on the Arabs. Thus it was hardly surprising that there should be a widening gap (gulf?) between Israeli and American perspectives.

There is a certain irony in all this. Even though the U.S. has moved closer to the Arabs and may be perceived to owe them something for their co-operation in the struggle against Iraq, in reality it is the Arabs who owe a great debt to the United States. Had the U.S. not bailed them out, especially Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, what would have been their fate? Under the circumstances it can certainly be argued that the U.S. should be using its newfound leverage with the Arabs to try to moderate their stance towards Israel. If there are lessons to be learned from this crisis, one of them surely is that the Arabs have more to fear from Iraq than they do from Israel. Moreover, Israel's military posture is a strategic asset for them as well as for the United States. Consequently the U.S. really has no reason to move away from support of Israel in order to repay the Arabs for the privilege of defending them.

Gulf Crisis Exacerbates Arab-Israeli Crisis

When all is said and done and the Gulf crisis ends, the issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict will remain. Surely the Palestinian problem will not go away, even if Saddam Hussein succeeds in repopulating Kuwait with Palestinians. And Israel still must decide what it wants to do with the territories. On the other hand, some things have changed, two in particular. The first is that the PLO, under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, has sidled up to Saddam Hussein in a most unseemly way. It has even been reported that Palestinians connived with Saddam in advance of his move on Kuwait, offering to assist in his efforts. Arafat's embrace of Saddam, coupled with the support shown for the Iraqi cause among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, has made Israelis even more skeptical than usual about the possibilities for dealing with the PLO, either directly or indirectly. The well-publicized statements of some Peace Now leaders underscored the damage done to their position by these developments.

No Viable Negotiating Partner Left for Israel

The second change has to do with Jordan. Ever since 1967, a reasonably benevolent view of the Hashemite Kingdom has been a cornerstone of the policies of those who have been prepared to show some flexibility on the territorial question, most notably the Labor Party, which has contemplated the trade of territory to Jordan in exchange for peace for some time. However, the comportment of King Hussein during the current crisis and the evidence of unrest beneath the surface in his country have combined to raise doubts about the long term viability of his regime and even his country, not to mention his suitability as a negotiating partner. These doubts in turn have generated renewed interest in the "Jordan is Palestine" concept. Whatever the merits of that idea — and the notion of Arafat riding high in Amman is not a comforting one — the fact of the matter is that the Israeli parties to the left of Likud no longer have even a prospective negotiating partner. For some of them, the PLO was, for a time, considered a necessary if somewhat distasteful possibility. For now, that is no longer a credible position. For others, Jordan was seen as an attractive option. That too now seems to be out of the question. That leaves only the indigenous Palestinians of the territories. But even they are suspect in the light of the events of recent months.

Danger to Israel of an Imposed Solution

There is a great danger in all of this. From the outside perspective, if there is no one to negotiate with but something must be done anyway, an imposed solution might appear to be a reasonable way out. Depending on the outcome of the confrontation with Iraq, that may be seen by many in the international community as a very attractive option. An effort to impose a solution will be especially likely if the international consensus on Iraq brings that crisis to a successful conclusion, particularly if done so without resort to war. Of course none of this is certain. If a war does occur, the outcome politically is unpredictable. And of course one can never be sure how the military battles will unfold, whether Israel will be drawn into hostilities, whether unconventional weapons will be introduced, what will happen to the coalition, etc. One thing is certain, however. American political and diplomatic support for Israel is vital if that country is not to be isolated and subjected to very great pressure. Despite the less intense commitment to Israel in the present Administration, as compared to the previous one, it is not foreordained that a U.S.-Israeli falling out must occur. For one thing, American supporters of Israel can play a crucial role in trying to insure that the U.S. remains supportive. The progression of the political calendar, with the start of the presidential election season only a year away, makes the task somewhat easier. Another consideration is that the denouement of the crisis might enhance American appreciation of Israel.

Status Quo in West Bank No Longer Palatable

From Israel's perspective, the Gulf crisis may well have shortened the horizon for crucial decisions on the future of the territories. For two decades after 1967 it was always possible to put off hard and possibly divisive choices on the grounds that the status quo was palatable and that aside from Egypt there was no negotiating partner. The *intifada* convinced some that perhaps the status quo was not so palatable after all. Now the Gulf crisis may eventually result in creating a sense of international urgency about the Israel-Palestinian situation, thereby depriving Israel of the luxury of deciding what to do in its own good time. Consequently Israelis may be forced to confront the tough issues that have been successfully avoided until now. Ironically the Gulf crisis and its political fallout may in fact have narrowed the options and made the prospects for progress even more problematic than they were before.

Four months after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, Israel finds itself in a substantially — perhaps even profoundly — changed political and military situation. Most disturbing, its freedom of maneuver, its ability to be master of its own fate, seems to have diminished. The new realities require a wide-ranging assessment of options, approached with an open mind. The challenges that now face Israeli policy makers are among the most serious in a 42-year history of such challenges. Their existence ought not to be a cause for despair, but rather a stimulus to the imaginative and creative leadership that the times demand.

Viewpoints

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Iraq's Threat 47 Years Ago

by H. David Kirk

While studying the private papers of Pierre van Paassen, whose biography I am writing, I saw to my astonishment an unpublished letter to the editor of the New York Herald-Tribune. The letter is so remarkably prophetic of current events in the Middle East that it will stand without any further comment. I have somewhat abbreviated the original letter, taking out merely some names and references to the history of the war. Here is Mr. van Paassen's letter of February 7, 1943:

THE casual reader of the article in question may . . . gain the impression (which is precisely what Mr. Nouri seeks to convey) that Irak's long awaited acquisition of the democratic cause constitutes so phenomenal a contribution to our ultimate triumph over the Axis as if it were a Power like France or Czecho-Slovakia or some other country with their erstwhile formidable war potential that has just entered the fray on our side.

Irak has oil, he says, Irak has pipelines. Irak was a refuelling station once for Dutch clippers in the Indonesian service. Irak is the bridge linking Europe with Asia.

All this may be true enough, but Irak was and had all that and much more on the day before she declared war on the Axis. Only it took a stiff and bloody campaign waged by British troops to keep the facilities that Irak has to offer from being handed over to the Axis by the Irakis themselves . . .

It is quite possible of course, as Mr. Nouri intimates, that following Irak's entry into the war some British troops may become available for service in other parts of the world — and that would unquestionably be a gain for us and to our soldiers; no doubt, a welcome change from having to guard and defend pipelines in lonely places and other valuable oil installations against Iraki raiders and Iraki tribesmen.

But we must retain some sense of proportion. Irak is not going to win the war for us after making at least one strenuous and costly effort in blood and treasure to win it for the Axis.

Little Cause for Optimism

There is, I feel, after reading Mr. Nouri's article through to the bitter end, little cause for optimism in . . . Bagdad. We cannot even be sure, it seems, that Irak under its Prime Minister, Nuri Pasha . . . will not play us a trick some day by plunging . . . Irak and some neighboring territories into a bloodbath worse than that of 1941, when his predecessor in office, Rashid Ali el Galiani called to his aid the Nazi Luftwaffe, or two years earlier when the Iraki army ruthlessly exterminated their peaceful fellow-citizens, the Assyrian Christians.

I hasten to say that it is not I who utters this grave warning. Mr. Nouri himself does that in the very article you published on January 25.

He informs us namely that "the real motive" behind Irak's declaration of war is not, as one would think perhaps, to defeat the Axis and to help wipe from the face of the earth every last vestige of the Nazi regime, that marauder of humanity and breeder of hatred, violence and slavery, but rather . . . "to secure a seat at the United Nations' peace conference when the war is won." There, says Mr. Nouri, "the Irak Government will have an opportunity to present its problems and grievances and demand a hearing for their side of the question."

. . . And what question is that? — we may well ask . . . The Irak Government's chief concern, according to Mr. Nouri, or according to the Prime Minister, . . . is something that does not touch any living Iraki . . . in the remotest way.

The Irak Government wants to have a say at the peace conference in the affairs of . . . Palestine, a country that does not threaten anybody in the world, where every man cultivates his own garden and, incidentally, does a lot of more useful work in the Allied cause, and from which Irak is separated by the immense, uncharted Syrian desert and does not have one border in common.

It's The Jews, Sire

The Iraki have their eyes on the Holy Land. It is "the Jewish" issue of the Palestinian homeland", says Mr. Nouri, "that rankles in the heart of all Arabs." There you have . . . the sources of strength . . . of "the powerful emotional appeal of Axis propaganda in the Near East." It's the Jews, Sire!

Do they have something there, Nuri Pasha and his ulemas? Let us see: the real problem that faced . . . the successive administrations Irak has had since the country was torn from the Turkish Empire was to whip a few hundred thousand peasants, nomads and camel-breeders who inhabit and roam in the former Mesopotamian vilayets into some semblance of nationhood . . .

Everything was tried . . . since the Ottoman went home to Anatolia, every expedient to weld the tribesmen into some cohesive shape of nationality. Most often the promise of loot and plunder was used to prick and elevate the national faith.

Several times the Bewadi were roused to a Jahad (jihad) against the British liberators — the stranger in our midst being always and everywhere the most obvious and useful steppingstone for the primitive chauvinist spirit — but the British struck back and hard. Then came the Assyrian massacre and the flame of Arab national passion flared high for one ghastly moment, only to peter out when all the Assyrians were dead . . .

No idea sufficiently inflammable to kindle national consciousness was produced in any part of Arabia since the Revolt in the Desert that the waves of time did not quickly wash out. (Not) until there appeared on the scene this man Nuri Pasha, the hero of your reporter's article . . . *From whom has Nuri Pasha caught the awful thought that, even as (in highly developed Nazi) Germany, . . . his poverty-stricken Bedouin can . . . be made to rally around the banner of Jew-hatred, be whipped into paroxysms of frenzy and be made to hurl its youth into holocausts of hell on the simple, blood slogan of 'Perish Judea?'*

They Shall Not Pass

'Astute' Mr. Nouri calls his Prime Minister. Isn't that an understatement; isn't he a man of truly lucent inspiration? His first action after declaring war on the Axis was to refuse a transit visa to seven hundred Jewish orphans, victims of the Axis, on their way to Palestine from Poland. Neither the pleas of the State Department, nor the requests of . . . humanitarian societies could make him budge. They shall not pass, said our Iraki champion of the Four Freedoms, as if he were facing fearful odds at some Verdun or Stalingrad!

While it is evident that Nuri Pasha thinks he has found the nostrum for the healing of Irak's ills . . . the long sought vehicle to nationhood, it must be pointed out that this proposed march to a place in the sun by Irak is to be accomplished over the backs of the Jewish people who have been our allies from the first hour in the struggle against the Axis and our collaborators in every forward-looking cause wherever they find themselves.

And this leads me to pose the most disturbing question of all: why does the United Nations, after winning a military victory over the Axis in Irak, permit the Prime Minister of that vanquished country to use the surrender of Irak as an instrument to extort from us acquiescence in or a benevolent attitude toward the basic tenets of the Hitler philosophy which Nuri Pasha enunciates as the foundation of his country's future policy?

Rashid Galiani and the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, the instigators of Irak's rising in favor of Hitler in 1941, are fugitives. But Nuri Pasha carries on their policy! Can such things be? Why then did we fight in Irak in the first place? Do we not care what the peace is like after winning the battles? Is it the principles of human dignity and freedom for which the world goes through this terrible ordeal, or is it all well again the moment the pipelines are reasonably safe?

Irak the Leader of the Pan-Arab Movement?

But there is more than that: Irak, we learn from Mr. Nouri, has entered on "the path of progressive regeneration" and is ready to take up "the role of leader in the emancipation of the Arabs from the yoke of foreign domination." Irak the leader of the Pan-Arab movement? *Attendez un peu*, but what will they think of that idea at the court of Mecca, in the universities of Egypt and Syria and the souks of Meknes and Fez? . . .

How then is the idea of an Arab federation to be translated into action from being an illusory phantasy . . . ? — Again the answer must be: the Jews, Sire!

Ten half-empty Arab empires, stretching from the Straits of Gibraltar to Hamadhraut, are to be bound together by Irak which is going to furnish them one common, coordinating policy: wresting from the hands of the Jewish people the pitifully insignificant strip of coastline on the Mediterranean, the name of which is not even shown on the average map and which the Jews by solemn international agreement call their National Home.

The most persecuted people on earth, the people who have seen a hundred Lidices and experienced the horrors of a thousand Rotterdams, are to be deprived of their last hope of refuge by the proprietors of hundreds of thousands of unoccupied square miles of the most fertile land on earth?

Is that the new era to which we are marching and for the advent of which Americans and Englishmen and Russians are shedding their blood? Is that the goal commensurate with the evil mankind now endures and with the agony the world is suffering?

Is Destruction of Israel Arab Contribution to Peace?

The Arabs of Palestine, from whom the Jews have taken nothing but their poverty and diseases, are to be liberated from association with a people who have been their benefactors. That is to be Irak's contribution to peace and to the institution of the Four Freedoms. And in the attainment of that grandiose object, *Nuri Pasha hopes to secure the collaboration of a vast, all-embracing pan-Arab movement. For Jewish Palestine is the thing that rankles in the heart of all Arabs. Does it really rankle or is it just made to rankle?* Have certain functionaries . . . who have been trying to hamstring, sabotage and frustrate the building of the Jewish National Home in Palestine . . . at last found in Nuri Pasha of Irak the whipping boy to destroy by violence what could not be stayed by a policy of niggling dishonesties and provocative inconsistencies . . . but what (was perhaps) the most worthwhile thing to have come out of the first World War?

H. David Kirk *is a retired sociology professor living in Victoria, B.C.*

The Big Bargain House

A Personal Memoir

by Sally Friedberg Zerker

We would have to open a store. That's what an informal family council decided. We didn't know what else to do in the face of our most recent predicament. Not that we knew anything about business or had any capital. But, as they say nowadays, we had "role models" to lead us. We knew many Jewish immigrants without money or experience who had ventured into storekeeping when they had no other means of support. And if the necessary qualification was destitution and despair, we more than adequately met the requirements.

You see, in 1949, my family was in the throes of yet another crisis, which, as I recall, occurred with depressing regularity. But it wasn't simply a matter of money problems this time. Financial difficulty was the least of our worries at this juncture. We had just learned that my father was gravely ill — stricken with cancer of the marrow — and we were all still numb from that revelation. The doctor advised that my father not return to his job — that of a lining-maker for fur coats — spending long, grinding hours in a polluted, stench-filled, dingy factory in Toronto's garment district. But the awful truth about his illness was kept from him. The doctor and my mother conspired together to effect a "cover-up", which on the whole worked well.

Keeping the secret would be difficult but not impossible. But to do so we had to recreate normality even though life had become abnormal — not a simple matter. It meant that my father had to participate actively in some line of work to retain his dignity, and self-worth; but somehow this work must be flexible enough to adapt to his state of health on any given day. And let's face it, the cover-up aspect was only part of the problem; the other side of this coin was the pressing urgency to find a source of income. My parents still had to make a living.

How to meet all these sundry and various needs? A store! That was the answer. I have to admit that we were lucky that we didn't give this plan more careful and cautious consideration. Had we done so and sought out expert opinion, in all likelihood our enterprise would never have seen the light of day. Accountants probably would have demonstrated that we could earn more by selling our services to outsiders than the pittance we would make working long hours for ourselves. Business executives would have noticed that we had no capital to invest, and without experience and a proven record, who would lend us money? Real estate specialists might well have pointed out that normally landlords are reluctant to lease properties to such novices. But we didn't ask anyone any questions, largely because we were so ignorant about business that we didn't even know what questions to ask. We ploughed ahead in our blissful backwardness.

My sister Eva's husband came up with a location for our would-be enterprise. Both Eva and Lil were married by then, and my brother and I were engaged to be married. Marital status did not however diminish one's obligation to family undertakings with us. On the contrary, it only meant that additional energy and talents might be harnessed from among those who were absorbed into the family as "in-laws" or even "in-laws-soon-to-be".

My brother-in-law Harold had only recently graduated as a professional accountant and as such represented one of our two significant contacts with the business world. The other was my uncle Joe, my mother's brother, who owned a ladies' ready-to-wear store in Brantford, Ontario. Harold serviced the account of a retail furniture business located on one of Toronto's active east-end commercial streets. For some mysterious reason, which we didn't know then and never learned, a sliver of the furniture store had been shaved off on one side and been transformed into a bit of independent retail space, with its own front door and its own display window. The furniture storekeeper was willing to lease us that slice for fifty dollars a month.

Picture, if you will, this prospective shop: street-side it was about eight feet wide, although slightly wider in the interior. Allowing three feet for the entrance way left a window frontage of approximatly five feet. (As you might imagine, our store-to-be was dwarfed by the neighbouring furniture emporium). Front to back, the space measured twenty feet at its deepest point. We are therefore talking about something under two hundred square feet of empty space, and "empty space" is precisely what we got when we rented the store. There was no water, no heating, and no toilet facility. I suppose we should have been thankful that the place was at least wired for electricity.

As for heating the place, we managed to find a relatively easy solution. Somehow (I've forgotten how) we acquired an ancient, box-like electric heater which soon found its place nestled against one end of the counter (of which more later). Let no one conclude from this that this instrument warmed us

FLOWERS BY YEHOUDA CHAKI

through on a cold wintry day. However, by slowly turning one's body, one could heat up bits at a time; first the backside, turn, then the frontside, shift, the feet next, switch, the hands now, and so on, and so on. That heater also served more than one function. In effect it was our kitchen, my father used it for his lunch tabletop, and generally, we hovered around it. You might say it was the focal point for this eccentric new home of ours.

But let me not get ahead of my story. Without benefit of agents or lawyers, my father closed a deal to lease the space. Our total available "investment capital" at that time amounted to the princely sum of $230.00. Even in 1949 one couldn't get very far on that amount of money. Out of that collective saving we were supposed to buy stock and pay for fixtures on which to rest or hang the expected merchandise.

Nevertheless, my mother hired a handyman who built us a masonite counter and some clothes racks made from iron plumbers' piping. He also constructed three wooden shelves which lined the wall behind the counter, and a masonite partition which was to serve as a dressing room, should the need arise. All together, these fixtures took $130 out of our capital fund.

The idea for a fitting room came about when we learned that we might have an opportunity to buy the kind of garments customers could expect to try on before purchasing. That dressing room was symbolic of our ignorance and naivety as business people. Not one of our family had the imagination to add a hook on the wall, let alone build a shelf to assist those in the process of changing. As a result, fitting an item in our store degenerated into a series of fumbling manoeuvres between the salesperson and the customer, where disrobed clothes passed back and forth, from hand to hand, without the relief of a resting place for bags, underwear, or any other items. It was not an elegant scene.

But never mind; we did have a location and some fixtures. Now we needed merchandise. But what kind? Notice that after paying for the equipment we were left with a grand total of $100 with which to start off as entrepreneurs. Uncle Joe arranged for my parents to talk matters over with one of his friends, a highly successful manufacturer of ladies' dresses, who offered them the wisdom of his experience. He advised them to specialize, and probably to do so in the ladies' ready-to-wear field. They thanked him for his kindness and for his counsel, and proceeded to disregard it entirely. Instead of specializing, they bought anything they could lay their hands on with the limited amount of money at their disposal. It all depended on what came their way by way of credit or consignment arrangements. So what if tablecloths and dated cocktail dresses didn't seem to fit into any common classification? Consistency or image was the least of their worries under the circumstances.

In this way there was assembled a strange and wonderful assortment of items for opening day. For example, we purchased bundles of undyed blanket ends from a mill near Brantford, courtesy of Uncle Joe's contacts. These came in bales and were priced by the pound. All the ends were the full width of a blanket, but they varied in length from a few inches to several feet. These ends — we hoped — would appeal to our potential clientele in the vicinity of our store who, by and large, were working class people whose earnings hovered around minimum wage (or thereabouts) in such local factories as Lever Brothers and Reliable Toy. The blanket ends did indeed prove to be a very popular item because for a dollar or two, by sewing several pieces together, one could make up a serviceable, warm bedcovering.

And so, a miscellaneous stock was rounded up by taking whatever could be had at a low enough price or on tolerable terms. We tossed around names for this unusual operation, and finally came up with one that would both inform the public and at the same time play a joke on us. We called it the Big Bargain House, as if to say: yes, the shop might be tiny but the savings here will be huge. (You should appreciate too, that in 1949, discount houses and plazas were unheard of, at least in Toronto. We didn't know it, but we were in the forefront of the discount movement.)

Opening day could now be scheduled. We chose a Tuesday for that momentous event because, according to Jewish folklore, Tuesday is supposed to be a lucky day. That first business day, as I awoke with an expectant nervousness, I was met by one of those dismal, persistent, wet downfalls that chills the bones. My mother, trying to be optimistic, found consolation in the rain, declaring it yet another sign of good luck, and "old country" superstition. Rain hardly seemed a good omen to me. But I was wrong and folklore was right.

From the moment we unlocked the front door, customers kept up a steady pace, looking us over and buying some of our bargains. On that first day, we took in $150. In effect, we had practically sold out our entire stock on opening day. And that pattern repeated itself on the following days. Then the race was on to keep one day's supply of merchandise ahead. Every morning, my mother, and/or father (depending on how well or ill he felt), and/or my sister Lil, scavenged the factories on Spadina for clearances or discounted goods of any sort, while I minded the store, neglecting my classes at the university.

There was only one criterion that our "buyers" had to consider: was the wholesale price low enough for the retail price to be an attractive bargain? In truth, we were literally cleaning out the junkyards of Toronto's

Sally Zerker *teaches in the Department of English at York University in Toronto. She is a Contributing Editor on the Board of* Viewpoints.

garment district. We bought and sold ratty-looking fur coats, soiled and faded sweaters with runs in the fabric, about a hundred *dozen* yellowed and short slips, brown children's stockings that no sensible child wore anymore since the advent of leotards, and many other such dated, defective merchandise.

My father was by far the best buyer in the family; he turned out to be a natural businessman. Manufacturers liked to deal with him despite his custom of offering them a fraction of their asking price. That's because he made it a practice to clear the whole lot, even when the lot amounted to 300 blouses of one size and colour, or a batch of dresses that other storekeepers had found to be unsaleable. He was confident that somehow the women in his family would find ways to move his purchases. And we did! Sometimes we did it by modelling the clothes while we worked, but mainly we managed to move the merchandise by giving our customers the best deal around.

It is hard to describe the elation we felt that first day in business. We had been cautioned by Uncle Joe not to expect too much at the beginning. It would take time to build a clientele, he warned. But that's not how it worked out. When Joe telephoned at the close of opening day, he was astonished and delighted that his forecast was wrong. It was as exciting for him as for us to think that this hapless bunch of novices, in this ill-fitted outlet, with no start-up capital, seemed about to make a go of it.

Yet there was still one very serious problem to be overcome before we could feel confident that we were on the road to success. Our family had always observed traditional Jewish religious practices, which meant that we didn't work on our Sabbath, which began at sundown on Friday and lasted until sundown the following day. Accordingly, the store would be closed on Saturdays, the day retailers considered the best of all business days in the week. In those years, workers received their pay envelopes with their weekly wages in cash on Friday, and studies show that most of their expenditures were made over the next 24 hours.

No wonder then that those businessmen who had our best interests at heart and heard about our plan to remain closed on Saturday tried to talk us out of that "mad" scheme. One of those worried advisors was my fiancé's father. He was a very experienced entrepreneur, who had been in the dress business for most of his life, and he couldn't believe that our store could survive without the best business day of the week. Still, according to my parents' set of beliefs, there was no alternative. To give up observance of the Sabbath in order to make the store a success would negate the purpose of the store. Also, they had always taught us that we could remain true to the faith in Canada, if only we had the will and determination to do so. They were not about to go back on their own maxims.

My future father-in-law may well have wondered about the reliability of his son's intended family. But he put aside whatever doubts may have troubled him and tried to minimize the damage that we obviously were choosing to impose on our endeavour. Knowing that when we had locked up on Friday afternoon we had placed a notice on the store door announcing our intention to re-open at 6 p.m. the following evening, and since he had a car and we did not, he offered to transport us to our distant location as quickly as possible after the onset of sundown. He wanted to reduce travel-time for us, even while I know he thought the need to do so somewhat demented.

"STUDIO AT MISHKENOT SHA'ASNANIM, JERUSALEM" BY SHARON KATZ

As we drove up that first Saturday night and parked in front of the store, we saw a sizeable group of people milling about the Big Bargain House. Were these people forming themselves into a queue? If so, for what purpose? It hardly seemed likely that this gathering had anything to do with us, I thought. But, to my own incredulity, I watched the crowd push its way through our narrow entrance as we unlocked the front door of the shop.

If we were astonished — and we were — my father-in-law was dumbstruck. All night long, while we served our customers, he hung around, watching, wondering, and shaking his head in disbelief. For him the whole scene was inconceivable, first, because our store with its hodge-podge of fixtures, stock, and amateurish window display seemed an unlikely magnet for such appeal. It didn't fit his previous, considerable wisdom about the retail world. Secondly, he had never before seen shoppers out on Saturday night. This was unheard of in Toronto at that time. Yet, despite everything, customers had awaited our return. Why? He had no answers. But he was sure of only one thing.

Whatever we had done thus far and however the store looked, we must leave it exactly as is. Don't improve on anything, he advised. Don't use professional window dressing equipment or assistance, don't buy paper bags (which of course we didn't have), don't specialize the merchandise, and don't improve the fixtures. Leave well-enough alone, said my father-in-law.

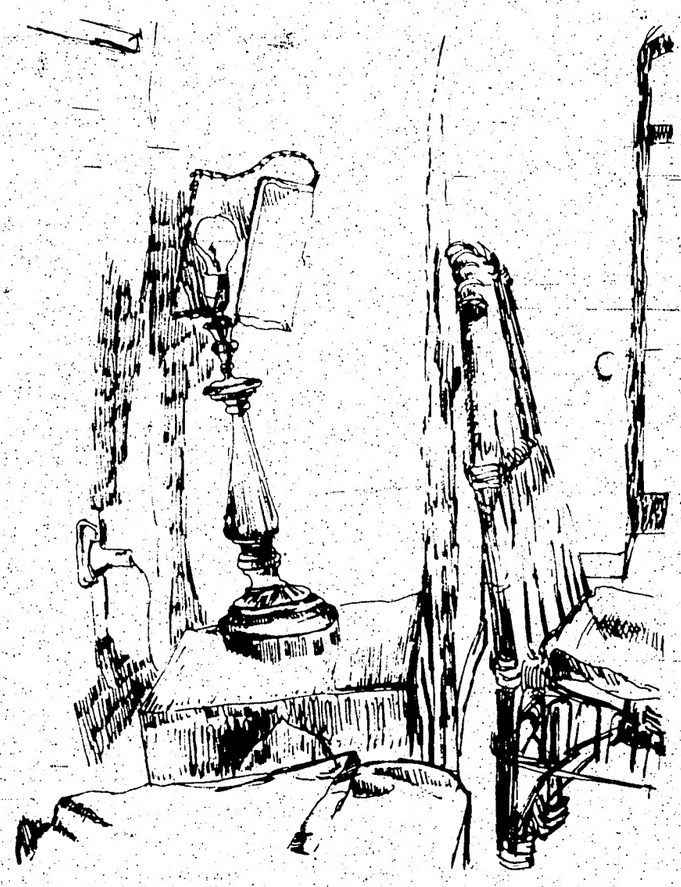
That first Saturday night, without aid of bags, string or wrapping paper, with one hapless dressing room, and with hardly any stock, our tally was close to $150. Now I know that a hundred and fifty dollars may not seem like the world, even taking account of the value of money in 1949, yet it was the world to me. Because it meant that the Sabbath hurdle was cleared. It was a miraculous answer to our very urgent family problems.

From beginning to end, our store had about it an air of wonder and surprise. Amazingly, it satisfied all the requirements we had set out for it. My father was able to work and to prove himself in a way that he'd never had the opportunity to do before. He was not only an astute buyer, he also had the vision to invest a little of the profits, although the other members of the family were discouraging.

Here's how that happened. It was my father's habit to take leisurely walks along Queen Street when business was slow, the weather was fair, and he felt well. On one of those excursions, he noticed a store-front property for sale, located about two blocks east of the Big Bargain House. I was unenthusiastic, as were my siblings, because we thought our existing location was commercially superior to the proposed new site. Nevertheless, my father resisted all our negative opinions and proceeded with the purchase, at approximately $18,000. The Big Bargain House was going to move.

We relocated into a much larger space, with two proper fitting rooms (including hooks, shelves and even a spare chair), quite classy fixtures, a cash register (second-hand), some real mannekins for the window (also second-hand), a stock-room, and a kitchen in the rear. Overhead was a self-contained apartment whose rent covered most of the maintenance costs for the building. It was this feature which convinced my father that he could afford to gamble on buying his own place. And we still attracted customers, even though we were slightly off the beaten-track. They had seen past the "shlock" of the little store to recognize the values we offered, and so they continued to seek us out in the new location.

Time passed. The year was 1956; the Big Bargain House was seven years old. Much had changed in the family during those years. With the exception of my youngest sister Pearly who was just out of her teens and a university student, we had all become parents ourselves, we were therefore tied down to families and careers, and so we couldn't give as much time to the store as we had in the beginning. As a result, the tasks of buying, selling, and lugging heavy parcels while travelling around the city by streetcar was left more and more exclusively to my parents. In addition, they were planning to move further away from the store — a northward move in line with the Jewish community trend of that era — and to be closer to their children's families. That change was bound to sap their energies even further, since it would mean a two-hour trek to the store's location in the south-east end of Toronto. We were all quite worried about their future as they were about to undertake this new step in their lives.



"LAMP AND SMALL TABLE, STUDIO AT MISHKENOT SHA'ANANIM" BY SHARON KATZ

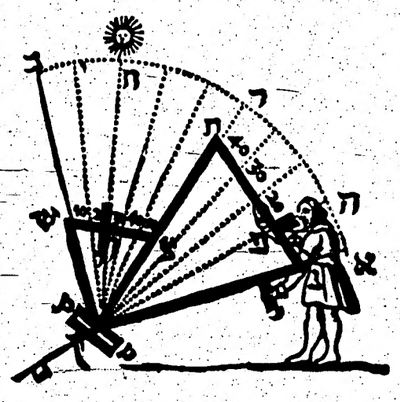
It was at just this juncture that my father informed us that someone had approached him about selling the building. I should tell you that the commercial real estate market was in recession at that time, and that our store's particular area was among the most depressed sections of the city, since that was where the then high levels of unemployment were directly felt. That's why I was surprised that someone had singled out our store from so many other better-situated properties.

However, I was not only surprised, I was also suspicious. The individual who was making the proposal to my father claimed to be a private representative of an anonymous client, and he wouldn't tell him anything about himself or his client. But, he maintained, this secretive purchaser was prepared to pay in cash at a good price. This proposition therefore seemed so far-fetched — nice, but far-fetched — that I thought my father was wasting his time. Nevertheless, my father took the man at his word, gave him and his proposal a serious hearing, and the man returned with a written offer, just as he said he would. And the deal was struck. But, still, the client's identity remained a secret.

It all happened so fast that my parents weren't too sure how they were going to dispose of the stock, nor whether they had allowed themselves sufficient time to do so before the closing date. Well, the angel appeared the next day with another timely offer. His client, it seemed, wanted immediate possession. So, he was now directed to purchase the stock for $5000, if my parents were prepared to hand over the keys then and there. Hurried telephone calls ensued, between the store, our homes, and Harold's (he was the accountant, remember) office.

By now, I was beginning to visualize this man with a halo and sprouting wings. You cannot imagine what a relief it was not to have to mobilize everyone in the family for the monumental job of selling off the stock. It would have meant weeks of slugging to clear out the stockroom, which in many ways was an accumulation of seven years of rejected merchandise. But we didn't have to do any of that. That very afternoon my father put his coat over his arm, and together with my mother, walked out of the Big Bargain House forever.

They had no regrets, except momentarily, when my father remembered an item he'd left behind, such as his favourite pair of shears, that he could have asked to take with him. The store had served its purpose and its end came precisely at the right moment. The Big Bargain House filled an episode in our lives with satisfaction, fun, and yes, joy, and even with a feeling of the miraculous. And why not? Wasn't the Big Bargain House born without gestation and wasn't it terminated through the visitation of an angel? And, oh yes, by the way, the anonymous client turned out to be the Salvation Army.



Some Reflections on "Planets, Potions and Parchments"

by B. Barry Levy

"Planets, Potions and Parchments" was an exhibition of pre-modern scientific Jucaica containing 400 rare books, manuscripts and scientific instruments from various sources around the world. It was sponsored by the Jewish Public Library and displayed at the David M. Stewart Museum in Montreal during the past summer.

Anyone who has dabbled however casually in traditional Jewish learning recognizes the names of Maimonides (Rambam), Moses Isserles, Gersonides (Ralbag), Abraham Ibn Ezra, Mordecai Jaffe (Levush), Elijah Mizrahi, and the Vilna Gaon; each wrote important Bible commentaries, philosophical works, or halakhic codes. Fewer people realize that each also wrote works of science or mathematics.

Most readers are acquainted with Maimonides' scientific reputation and medical activities in twelfth-century Egypt. His medical works were written in Arabic, and soon found their way into Hebrew and Latin; they were studied with great interest by Jews, Moslems, and Christians.

Gersonides, best known as a philosopher and as author of commentaries on the whole Torah and about half of the rest of the Bible, was a leading fourteenth-century astronomer. He is credited with several important astronomical observations, and with inventing the Jacob's Staff — a cross-shaped piece of equipment used to determine the angles of elevation of heavenly bodies.

Historians of mathematics suggest that Abraham ibn Ezra, famous Bible commentator, linguist, poet, and astrologer, was the first to introduce the Indian-Arabic decimal system into Europe. Elijah Mizrahi, sixteenth-century chief rabbi of Turkey and best known as the author of a lengthy exposition of Rashi's Torah commentary, wrote the first Hebrew mathematics book to be published. In fact, many pre-modern rabbis wrote scientific books; many more studied them and actively supported their composition.

Scientific Studies Important to Medieval Rabbis

These facts are not new discoveries, nor do they suggest that Jews dominated medieval science (though many made important contributions). Anyone who examines the extant biographies of the men listed above, or those of their many similarly minded rabbinic colleagues, will see how important the study of science was to them; and a careful reading of their religious writings will show how thoroughly scientific concerns permeated their thinking. Why, then, do many contemporary Jews ignore this early scientific literature so consistently that it is regularly assumed not to have existed?

When early modern thinkers began to differentiate sharply between religion and science, the medieval and renaissance tendency to integrate them lost its preferred status. This left clouds of impropriety hovering over religious writers who devoted time and effort to science, and also over scientists who seemed too deeply committed to religion. Moreover, modern science is a rapidly changing discipline that offers little time or respect for discarded theories; old science is seen as bad science. Scientists do not dwell on the now all-but-irrelevant accomplishments of most of their predecessors; nor do they stimulate interest in out-dated scientific works written by pious Jews.

Religious teachings, on the other hand, thrive on antiquity, and many Jews' recent rekindling of interest in and commitment to the tradition has drawn attention to many theoretically respected but relatively unknown works. Judaism derives its strength from old but not out-dated teachings, and has demonstrated high degrees of eclecticism and subjectivity in its reinterpretation and application of what has been preserved in the religious literature from which it draws spiritual nourishment. Yet, classical learning has not sustained any significant interest in the scientific works of early rabbinic writers — surely nothing comparable to the attention given their commentaries, codes, and similar works — nor has the recent religious revival substantially altered this situation.

Relevance of Science to Religion Denied Today

In all likelihood, this neglect reflects the modern bias that denies the relevance of rationalistic science to religion; and being unable or unwilling to integrate modern science into contemporary religious thought, many Jews further assume the irrelevance, even the non-existence, of its medieval counterpart. Faced with the choices of rejecting, accepting, reinterpreting, or ignoring old science, Judaism seems generally to have preferred the last, and thereby avoided the dilemmas inherent in the other possibilities.

Rabbis who excelled in Galenic medicine or Ptolemaic astronomy may have little to teach modern medical or astronomical researchers (though their books offer a rich and often ignored mine of information on the history of science). Nor can one justify allegorizing their scientific writings in order to infuse them with acceptable but unintended religious messages. But by ignoring their predecessors' efforts to understand science, to teach it, and to integrate it into their religious thought (or by allowing themselves to be naively guided only by those translators, anthologizers and prioritizers of contemporary religious thinking who ignore these efforts), contemporary Jews — religious and secularist — often attribute to traditional Judaism an attitude that many leading rabbis would have rejected. In fact, some of the most important religious writers often allowed their scientific research to influence the ways in which they understood the Bible, the Talmud, and related areas of religious thought. And this model invites us to explore the implications of this integration, even if it challenges some popular and comfortable beliefs often presented in synagogue sermons.

To be sure, the disregard of science is not the unique contribution of this generation's religious leaders (and all of them are not equally guilty). The most prominent folio-size Bible edition accompanied by many rabbinic commentaries was issued in Amsterdam (1724-28), and it made significant additions to the rabbinic Bible tradition established during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This seventh rabbinic Bible (called *Qehillōt Moshe* by the editor, Rabbi Moses Frankfurter) contains a collection of commentaries (by Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Gersonides, David Kimhi, Frankfurter himself, and many others), over a quarter of which were written by men who also contributed to the Jewish scientific literature. By comparison, the famed Vilna edition of the Talmud, which contains over one hundred ancillary exegetical compositions, is a product of another era and religious world-outlook. Roughly ten percent of its authors (including both medieval and post-medieval rabbis) made similar contributions to the sciences.

Attitudes Changed after 18th Century

These varied levels of attention to science highlight one of the major differences between the eighteenth century and the subsequent ones. In the former, the interpretation of religious texts by scientifically minded writers was still respected, and their commentaries commanded places in the formal editions of religious works. But this attitude was in decline and, before long, religious writers and scientists were more likely to be two different groups of people. Eventually, contemporary collections of interpretations of religious literature came to ignore the broader interests of their more integrated predecessors and contemporaries.

This situation also suggests a difference between men who wrote commentaries on the Bible and those who wrote on the Talmud. For some time now, most of the former have been more interested in philosophy and science, which was not always the case. But philosophy-science (essentially one interrelated discipline in pre-modern times) was perceived by some religious thinkers as a highly questionable endeavor, and Bible study, which often shared its concerns, was often regarded with equal suspicion. The Talmud thus became virtually the only legitimate subject of Orthodox education.

But the integration of science and religion has not ended. Yeshiva University, America's foremost Orthodox institution of higher learning, has long carried the motto of *Torah uMada*. "Torah and Science," which focuses the attention of many religious Jews on the dialectic relationship between the two. Yeshiva's impact on the American Jewish community has been extensive, but this synthetic aspect of its philosophy has often been neglected and challenged, even by members of its own community. However this institution chooses to realize the potential in its motto, relatively few of America's religious Jewish students actually study there (or at Bar Ilan University in Israel, which has a similar philosophy). For this integration of science and religion to have any impact on the community at large, it must become a priority of the religious education offered in high schools across the continent.

Religio-scientific Concerns Should be Studied in Day Schools

The addition of formal units on the history of science or religious-scientific concerns (e.g., the calendar, astronomy, and relevant biological or medical materials) to day school Judaica curricula would provide important opportunities to explore the model of integration of scientific and religious concerns. Hiring teachers who share commitments to both classical learning and science would allow this attitude to permeate the classroom. While these ideals sometimes receive lip service, they are often victims of other curricular priorities, disinterest, or fear, and are realized only in exceptional cases. Indeed, this change cannot be supported broadly until the academic disciplines centered in intellectual history — including the histories of science, of halakhah, and of Bible interpretation — become essential parts of the curricula in religious high schools, and play greater roles in determining the expectations of teachers and the institutions that train them.

As we stand on the threshold of a new century in which the potential for political and social change is greater and swifter than ever before, society may require an even stronger anchor in its past. Reflection on the accomplishments of previous generations, and the ways their leaders' coped with challenge and change, may assume greater significance. Should that happen, the suggestive attempts of earlier, pious, philosopher-scientists to synthesize religion and science may be valued more than ever before.

Value in Mixture of Science and Religion

Current concern for the ethical questions raised by recent scientific discoveries and technological accomplishments points to a renewed interest in the contribution religion can make to science; at the very least, it points to a willingness to consider religion's potential contribution to living with the outcome of scientific discovery and technological advance. Recent months have also seen the appearance of several worthy volumes (by religious physicists) that attempt to juxtapose or synthesize the latest scientific theories on cosmology and evolution with the initial chapters of Genesis. It seems that we are witnessing the revival of a dormant attitude that sees value in the mixture of science and religion, perhaps even an attempt by religion to examine how contemporary science can serve it. As this feeling grows, generations of rabbi-scientists will deserve consideration as forerunners of this trend, and perhaps the interest in pre-modern Jewish scientists will be shared by everyone, not only historians of science.

Barry Levy, *Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Jewish Teacher Training Program at McGill University, is Guest Curator of "Planets, Potions and Parchments."*

The Decline of Winnipeg

by Michael Greenstein

SPRING LANDSCAPE WITH WATER BY YEHOUDA CHAKI

REVIEWING the history of Jews in Canada, Irving Abella notes the disappearance of the Jewish farmer, rural storekeeper, and factory worker across the country. While small-town Jewish communities across the prairies lasted for perhaps one generation, Winnipeg remained as a strong industrial and cultural centre noted for its cohesiveness, philanthropic generosity, and devotion to Israel. In the face of a cold climate and equally harsh immigrant mix, Manitoba's Jews banded together to produce impressive educational institutions from the Peretz School to the first Jewish Studies Program in Canada at the University of Manitoba. Times have changed, however, and the phasing out of the Jewish Studies Program is indicative of a more widespread demise.

With its aging and diminishing population, and with its synagogues and day schools closing, the future of Winnipeg's Jewish community may be in jeopardy. Whether the younger generation has departed for the gentler climate of Vancouver or financial opportunities of Toronto, there is no denying the decline of this once vibrant city with its ethnic variety. Of its many cultural achievements, perhaps Winnipeg can be proudest of three important writers — Jack Ludwig, Miriam Waddington, and Adele Wiseman — each of whom has left an indelible stamp on Manitoba's capital. Their fiction and poetry capture a unique city during the Depression and World War II in ways that differ from Jewish writing in Montreal and Toronto at the same period.

Adele Wiseman

These writers' imaginations oscillated between a cultural domestic interior filled with the folk tales of Peretz, Mendele Mocher Sforim, and Sholom Aleichem, and the vast expanse of the prairies with its never-ending horizon out of doors. Conscious of the hardships of the Depression and the hostilities of anti-Semitism during the Second World War, Wiseman recalls the warmth of her childhood home: "Towards the Sabbath we kids used to hang around the kitchen waiting for Froikah, our raggedy, ruddy breadman, to come puffing in the back door, with his big, flat, woven breadbasket piled with fragrant, crusty gold and brown." Although the *challah* is not named in this sentence, the heaping up of adjectives suggests not only the appearance of the breadman, his basket, and the convoluted loaves, but an entire world of the Jewish interior. In addition, this woven or sculpted *koilitch* offered food for thought since Froikah's basket was lined with wads of newspapers and comics which Wiseman devoured in her book-devouring childhood, and packed in her later prose.

Miriam Waddington's history also serves as a paradigm for Jewish life on the prairies. "Even in the life of one person like myself, living in a raw provincial city like Winnipeg, you can find the presence of duality and paradox that is so characteristic of Canadian life... I stepped without much consciousness from the uniculture of the Yiddish home to the multiculture of a very mixed social group." So the outsider internalized those multiple worlds of a wintry Manitoba prairie, Eastern European history, and spiritual Jerusalem. "If I had to sum up what being a secular Jew means to me, I would have to say that it means having Peretz on the dining-room wall, Mendele Mocher Sforim and the poets Leyvick and Manger looking over my shoulder as I write, and — to keep things alive and moving — Sholom Aleichem in my heart." But today these Yiddish supervisors have all but disappeared from Winnipeg's atavistic walls.

Jack Ludwig

Consider Jack Ludwig's award-winning short story "Requiem for Bibul." In his depiction of Bibul the fruit peddler, Ludwig combines the sentimental nostalgia of Sholom Aleichem with the toughness of Issac Babel's cavalry to create an ironic, yet affectionate portrait. The story's opening words — "Once upon a time" — suggest a traditional tale in the manner of all children's stories, and one especially appropriate to an immigrant community in its adolescent stages of development. But this seemingly simple opening is immediately complicated by the remainder of the first sentence; "Once upon a time — if we counted time not by calendars but be assimilated history and scientific change I'd be tempted to say four or five thousand years ago: before total war and all-out war, before death camps, Nagasaki, before fusion and fission, jets, moon shots, cosmonauts, [etc.] — once upon that kind of time lived a boy and his horse."

From the ancient Hebrew calendar to the twenty-year hiatus between Bibul's life and the author's recollection, Ludwig writes against assimilation in "time-sorrowed perspective": "The year was 1939. This is no pastoral tale. The boy and the horse are both dead."

Much of the irony and humour of the story derives from Ludwig's contrast of his own youthful ventures with Bibul's. "Bibul peddled while my time burned: in 1939 all of us high-school boys owlish with speculation almost missed seeing this Bibul foxy with finagling. We were out to save the world. Bibul a buck." "Requiem for Bibul" flips two sides of the same Jewish coin: on one side the spiritual, whether the narrator's secular academic world or Bibul's graduation to yeshiva student; on the other, the materialistic, from a pedlar's bargaining to Winnipeg's prosperity after Bibul's death.

Ludwig's story progresses through this comparative mode, calling into play all the literary resources from ancient epics to more modern class struggles. "On Bibul's 'island' Malkeh suffered no invidious comparisons, but on a main thoroughfare like St. John's High's Salter Street Malkeh was exposed to the cruelty of horse hierarchy." Equally amusing and equally heroic is Bibul's struggle with the *schnorrers* who haggle over the price of his wares. The simplest *yeh-yeh* upsets a legion of applecarts in domestic free-for-alls.

The war transforms Winnipeg, Bibul leaves for Yeshiva in New York, and Ludwig dreams of entering university abroad. Losing sight of reality, Bibul drowns in a swimming pool in New York. The narrator laments that he cannot find Bibul's like in Winnipeg any more, nor can he recapture the past, except in print. For all his cosmopolitanism the ex-Winnipegger is drawn to this fable of a lost primitive ghetto.

Adele Wiseman

Ludwig's story ends with a rhetorical question: "When the City Hall is torn down they will build Winnipeg a new one; but where, O where shall we find more Bibuls?" Adele Wiseman proposes an answer to this question in her second novel, *Crackpot*. In place of Bibul the peddler, she creates Hoda the innocent prostitute who has a vision of transforming Winnipeg's City Hall into a Yiddish pleasure dome. Like Bibul, Hoda is hip-deep in reality, but Wiseman gives her an added sense of fantasy to challenge the harsh facts of Winnipeg. In the novel's closing dream sequence Hoda tears down City Hall through her imaginative use of language: for the motto "Commerce, Prudence, Industry" she substitutes "Condoms, Prurience, Incestry." The young immigrant unsettles established forms of English. Like Bibul, she is something of a crackpot, but if society labels her she knows how to retaliate and expose the fissures in society's structures. Samson-like, domestic Hoda knows how to bring down the house.

Hoda attends two schools but most of her education is extracurricular. After four o'clock, when English school is over, she goes to the Worker's school to learn about Jewish history and socialism. The warmth of the poor people's Yiddish school contrasts with English school where unloving voices tell proudly how westerners had beaten the wild Indians, crushed the treacherous half-breeds, and made the new continent a place fit to live in. To this official colonial version of history Wiseman opposes Hoda's naive oral truths which reveal flaws. Herself a half-breed of sorts from the underbelly of Europe, Wiseman's protagonist beats down other westerners, and by crushing authority or cracking the hemisphere, she forces herself to fit in a grotesque niche.

Wiseman's sheer delight in language, her irreverent humour, and her grotesque characters level conservative Canadian hierarchies. On the flat, wide-open prairies she exposes foibles and sets everyone on an equal footing from the lowest Jewish immigrant to the royal family itself. Hoda's socialist education serves her well during Winnipeg's general strike when she pulls a mounted policeman off his horse to save one of her Jewish comrades, her revolutionary teacher Polonick. Prophetic justice by way of modern socialism on open prairies clashed with Canada's vertical mosaic throughout the first half of this century as part of a mutual coming of age.

Whatever Hoda learns from her English and Yiddish schools she supplements with Winnipeg's street savvy. Her prostitution is a horizontal pose, a socialist inclusion of all bodies, an immigrant's incorporating the New World.

Hoda's comic sexuality is a form of "I-Thou" dialogue in which she interrelates with her fellow citizens. "Concerned as Hoda was with very personal things on one hand, and with large, universal political and humanitarian problems on the other, she always

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Michael Greenstein *teaches in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Toronto. He is the author of* Third Solitudes *(McGill-Queens University Press) which won an award this year from the Toronto Jewish Congress Book Committee. He is a Contributing Editor on the Board of* Viewpoints.

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felt when she thought of the City Hall that this should be the place where everybody would feel the same concern for everybody else. But instead, it was from the top of the stone staircases out front of the City Hall that the mayor had read the Riot Act and given the order for the militia to charge on the workers in the general strike." With her own form of heroism and sympathy she reinterprets the meaning of the statue of the soldier in front of City Hall. That Hoda thrives in the midst of the Depression is testimony to Wiseman's faith in the future as well as her trust in the past.

Wiseman shows a healthy disrespect for outmoded authority in *Crackpot* at the same time as she longs nostalgically for a vanishing period.

Miriam Waddington

Where Wiseman and Ludwig create their immortal characters in Hoda and Bibul, Miriam Waddington captures her city in verse. Where the two novelists chart Winnipeg's transformations in prose, Waddington writes "Transformations":

> The blood of my ancestors
> has died in me
> I have forsaken the steppes
> of Russia for the prairies
> of Winnipeg...
> I love only St. Boniface
> its grey wooden churches
> I want to spend my life
> in Gimli listening to the
> roar of emptiness in the
> wild snow.

The poet traces the changes from her Russian roots, with their pogroms of blood, as she equally forsakes American experience for her northern country. At one with nature, her silent poems fill the "roar of emptiness," a phrase as contradictory as her own history. Just as her fate is the junction of two rivers (the Red and Assiniboine) so her past includes both Russian ancestors and Henry Hudson adrift in a boat:

> when he comes home
> I will come home too and
> the blood of my ancestors
> will flower on Mennonite bushes.

Adrift in the Diaspora, Waddington finds a new home with less persecution where she can transform the older history into a new venture of freedom and open space.

In "The nineteen thirtees are over" Waddington looks back at the Depression and the strike at the corner of Portage and Main, and sees herself as

> someone from
> Winnipeg whose bones ache
> with the broken revolutions
> of Europe.

The other part of her identity yearns for an earlier version, no matter how painful. Standing on the "ploughed-up field / of my father's old war" she may unearth bones aching from a revolutionary cause but also pained with persecution.

The lost world reappears in "Why should I care about the world,"

> Gone is
> the holiness
> in where I
> lived, my song.

Waddington combines irony with lyricism, for her bittersweet song

> was only a few
> ragged Scotsmen
> in Kildonan, some
> riff-raffy settlers,
> half-breeds, Indians,
> Galician labourers,
> scraggly-ended
> pee-smelling prairie
> towns.

Gone is her "wheat ocean":

> And I can't even
> go back to being
> *dirty Jew,* to
> hearing from the
> conductor on the
> Selkirk streetcar:
> *Your father is*
> *a Bolshevik isn't*
> *he little girl?*

Winnipeg is full of revolutions, transformations, contradictions, and revelations.

Waddington's black lines on the page compete against "white levels the / endless defeats / of snow," for writing alone can claim victory against Manitoba's barren expanse. The process of imagining the prairies appears in "In small towns":

> Unreal as the
> shifting fields
> of winter
> was your crossing
> my threshold.

This threshold is a central image between external landscape and the interior life of the imagination with its shifting Diaspora. The poet's creative light traces maps

> in a landscape of ink
> and flat paper...
> lot surveys penned
> through the paths
> leading to the very edge
> of maps dwindling
> into distant archives.

Inner and outer lines surface "from a haze of / lost times" across Manitoba.

Like Hoda and Bibul, this "north Winnipeg girl" is "street-known" and "street-knowing." Ludwig, Wiseman and Waddington chant their requiems for Winnipeg, unable to find their lost city, except in print. Once upon a time a cold gust crossed prairies and thresholds, stirred the embers of imagination, and gave rise to Winnipeg's warmth and a contoured slice of life in exile.

LETTERS

As you feared in your remarks in the *Editor's Notebook*, my article *Let Them Forget* (Vol. XVIII, No. 3) was misunderstood. A gentleman from South Africa called me to protest the idea that "they should be forgiven." I confess that I did not use judicious language, relying too much on the readers' sense of irony and assuming they would know my tongue was in my painful cheek. You also, innocently enough, highlighted that section with the heading; "Is it time to forgive?" which, of course, is the last thing you or I had in mind.

Sincerely,
Jacob Chinitz
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Ms. Aviva Ravel,

Your story *Piano Lessons* (Vol. XVIII, No. 3) has moved me profoundly. The way you told it from the little girl's point of view made it possible for me — a mature woman — to relate to it in a very personal way. Somehow, I felt I was experiencing the extreme cold, the weight of the books and the hunger as if this were happening to me.

There is so much that is profound in your story: the teacher's attitude despite the desire of the child to go ahead and learn more. Also the sad gap between the mother and her well-off sister, as well as the pride of the mother in not wanting to accept a meal for her little daughter.

Of course, the ending of the recital was a wonderful surprise! The performance of this little girl was magnificent.

All in all, this is the kind of writing that has earned my deepest admiration for you.

I am sharing it with my husband as well as with a dear friend who is a writer.

You deserve a vote of thanks for writing this meaningful story.

Sincerely,
Ruth Spring
Cambridge, Ont.

POETRY

POEMS ON JERUSALEM

I miss your calm
minarets, spires and domes
springing from the violet flannel
touch of Jerusalem nights
poppy checkered hills
and cool scented mornings
of pink almond blossom
dangling carob
and the waft of wild spice
through autumn pine
and my Jerusalem window

by Sandra Cohen

Sandra Cohen is a Canadian-born poet residing in Jerusalem.

AYE, LAZAROVITCH

Dead?
Irving will not die -
for one thing
he's too damn stubborn
and for another,
halfway between heaven and hell
he'll be tormenting "the toadies" -
haranguing "the philistines" -
thumbing his nose at the
quack-hacks
summa cum laude.

No, my immortal poet friend,
not for you eternal rest,
you dance off the page
with an agile leap

never once looking back!

THE KEY

Money
and a room of one's own
Virginia Woolf said,
are all a woman needs –
to write

I say
a fortress -
a tower -
a lighthouse perhaps, on
precipitous
cliffs -

where nobody knocks
or pleads -
and where invisible
marauders
like guilt,
have no *porte*

of entry

by Faye Weber

Faye Weber is a poet living in Montreal.